

BLAINE COUNTY RECREATION DISTRICT  
**SPORTS & RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE  
FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT**

FEBRUARY 7, 2024



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# INTRODUCTION

Blaine County Recreation District (BCRD) provides healthy, active, and diverse recreational opportunities for the Wood River Valley community. Fostering an inclusive environment where recreation positively impacts the community and supports personal growth is central to BCRD's mission. BCRD provides a variety of facilities and programs to keep Blaine County moving: FitWorks fitness center and gymnasium, youth and adult sports and activities, an outdoor Aquatic Center, and a number of multi-use, year-round trail systems. In operation since 1976, BCRD currently serves over 600,000 user days each year for people of all ages, abilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Blaine County is made up of an active and growing community of over 25,000 residents<sup>1</sup> with a significant visiting population throughout the year. BCRD is an integral part of this community, offering facilities and services that are well-used and well-loved. BCRD's indoor gymnasium is booked every day of the week and operates at capacity during peak hours each evening. In addition to serving general recreational users, BCRD also helps facilitate organized athletics in the county. In partnership with city, county, and school district-owned facilities, BCRD works to meet the needs of local sports programs year-round. A rise in popularity of area sports programs like soccer, lacrosse, pickleball, baseball, and others have led to increased demand for athletic facilities and an ever-growing workload for BCRD employees. As existing facilities age and user demands rise, BCRD felt the need to assess existing facilities and gauge current recreational needs of the community. This study, the *Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Feasibility Assessment*, was commissioned to meet those objectives.

Encompassed in this study is an inventory of existing facilities, a survey of recreational users, and a series of stakeholder interviews with representatives from area sports teams and recreational groups. Each of these inputs helped provide a broader understanding of existing capacity in the valley and a clearer picture of the current and anticipated demand for recreational facilities across

the county. Findings from the public survey and stakeholder interviews are summarized in the *Community Outreach* chapter of this report. Inventory of existing facilities is summarized in the *Assessments* chapter.

The results of this study show that the Blaine County community is currently underserved by sports and recreation infrastructure, and findings indicate that the gap in service will continue to grow if no action is taken. Competition for space among local sports programs is high, with many teams using make-shift solutions that require athletes to travel long distances or subject them to substandard conditions with increased risk of injury. Families routinely travel to Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, or Boise for practice and competition space. In the valley, volleyball teams practice in cafeterias, baseball and softball teams practice on wood gymnasium floors, and soccer players navigate uneven and under-sized playing fields. BCRD staff are stretched thin as they work to supply temporary sports infrastructure and maintenance to city-owned facilities.

Though this report reveals undesirable conditions, it also provides actionable information that can be used to guide BCRD's next steps. The *Recommendations* chapter provides three primary recommendations: 1) pursue a master plan for needed additional facilities, 2) improve and expand existing facilities to meet current recreational needs, and 3) develop an aggregated tournament and practice facility to improve the level of service for BCRD users. These recommendations come at a critical time in the development of the valley. Large parcels of land are still acquirable and can be set aside for recreational use. As Blaine County experiences continued growth, BCRD has an opportunity to establish a recreational facility central to core population densities that also serves the entire county. If acted upon, these recommendations will allow BCRD to continue to fulfill their mission for years to come.

1. Estimated 2024 population is 25,432 according to most recent United States census data.





**COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH**

# PROCESS

Blaine County Recreation District, with support from partners at the cities of Carey, Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley, as well as Blaine County and the Blaine County School District, initiated this *Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Feasibility Assessment*. The purpose of this Assessment is to guide BCRD on infrastructure needs, ensuring enough field space and indoor facilities to support the diverse sports and recreational activities enjoyed by our community.

The assessment process launched in August 2023, kicking off the discovery phase to understand the existing conditions as well as the sports and recreation needs of the area. Beginning in August, weekly working group meetings were held with representatives from GGLO, Lyon Landscape Architects, and BCRD. In addition, key stakeholder engagement meetings were held with leadership from the City of Carey, City of Bellevue, City of Hailey, City of Sun Valley, City of Ketchum, Blaine County School District, and Blaine County.

A comprehensive survey of existing fields and their conditions began in September. Potential opportunities for expansion and improvement at existing fields were also noted. Private competing and complimentary facilities were also documented.

In October, the assessment team launched a public survey targeted to BCRD, City of Carey, City of Bellevue, City of Hailey, City of Sun Valley, City of Ketchum, Blaine County School District, and Blaine County communities. The survey was advertised through several BCRD email blasts, BCRD newsletters, the local paper Idaho Mountain Express, and a Blaine County School District email blast. The online survey was offered in both English and Spanish languages.

Individual meetings with focus groups and club sports were conducted to better assess the demand, short-term and long-term, for sports and recreation in the valley. Club sports groups included Wood River Lacrosse, Sun Valley Lacrosse, Wood River Baseball Association, Wood River Legacy Softball, Sun Valley Soccer Club, Idaho SURF Soccer Club, Wood River Volleyball Club, Wood River Pickleball Association, and Wood River Select Basketball. Focus groups included BCRD staff, Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation, and Hispanic community leadership.

All information was gathered and aggregated into findings and recommendations as summarized in this *Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Feasibility Assessment* report.

# PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

A primary component of the community outreach phase was a Needs Assessment Survey that allowed us to hear directly from the community. The intent of the Needs Assessment Survey was to gauge the public's level of satisfaction with current recreational facilities and assess what improvements and additions can be made. The Needs Assessment Survey was open to the public and available in both English and Spanish. The survey was conducted online and distributed through BCRD's email list, BCRD Newsletters, the Idaho Mountain Express, and the BCSD email list. The survey was open for input from September 13 to November 10, 2023. During that time, 704 individual responses were collected. A copy of all the responses can be found in the appendix of this document. A summary of the major findings and takeaways from the survey is provided here.

The greatest need communicated by the public was for additional indoor facilities. Nearly 90% of respondents believe BCRD needs additional indoor facilities. Indoor facilities also rated the worst on user satisfaction, with the majority of respondents rating existing indoor facility quality as either Fair (43.4%), Poor (20.4%), or Very Poor (8.9%). Among indoor facilities, the highest requested features were aquatic center, soccer fields, fitness center, climbing wall, and pickleball courts.

A need for additional outdoor facilities was also felt by the community, with 72% of respondents requesting more outdoor facilities. The highest requested outdoor features were soccer fields, splash pad, pickleball courts, baseball and softball fields, and basketball courts. User satisfaction with existing outdoor facilities rated higher than indoor facilities, with a majority of respondents rating the quality of outdoor facilities as Fair (37.2%), Good (42.2%), or Excellent (6.1%).

For a complete summary of the survey results, please see the appendix.

# RESULTS AT A GLANCE

## INDOOR

**89%** of respondents requested **more indoor facilities**.

**Existing indoor facilities** were generally considered to be in **Very Poor - Fair condition**.

The two **most requested indoor facilities** were Indoor **Aquatic Center** and Indoor **Soccer Fields**.

## OUTDOOR

**72%** of respondents requested **more outdoor facilities**.

**Existing outdoor facilities** were generally considered to be in **Fair - Excellent condition**.

The two **most requested outdoor facilities** were Outdoor **Splash Pad** and Outdoor **Soccer Fields**.

# CLUB SPORTS INTERVIEWS SUMMARY

The Wood River Valley is home to a diverse group of club sports programs that engage over 2,500 adult and youth participants in competitive sports throughout the year. Representatives from eleven of these programs were interviewed during October and November of 2023 to assess their current and future needs. The major findings from these conversations are provided here. A more detailed summary of each conversation can be found in the appendix.

Club sports teams in Blaine County have historically relied on BCRD and BCSD facilities to meet practice and competition needs. Club sports are increasingly being squeezed out as priority use of BCSD facilities are given to school teams and BCRD facilities are made available for general use. Due to rising demand and limited facilities, many teams have found alternative solutions providing less-than-ideal conditions. An over-demand for sports facilities leads many of the Wood River Valley's athletes to utilize non-purpose-built facilities with unsafe playing conditions or to travel long distances of seventy-five miles or more to facilities outside the region. This places participants at an increased risk of injury, disadvantages valley teams, and puts a strain on Blaine County families' time and resources.

Every club surveyed reported a need for additional indoor facilities. Lacrosse, soccer, baseball, and softball teams requested indoor turf facilities. Full-size fields were requested, but notes were made that teams could share facilities and utilize half-fields when needed. Basketball,

volleyball, and pickleball teams requested additional indoor court space, with pickleball requesting dedicated purpose-built pickleball courts rather than a shared multi-purpose solution. A request for a larger or additional fitness center to accommodate strength training was also shared by club sports like the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation and Wood River Baseball.

A need for additional outdoor facilities was shared by soccer, lacrosse, baseball, softball, and pickleball clubs. Soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball teams requested additional outdoor field space purpose-built for athletic use. Many of the fields currently being utilized by these teams are open fields with uneven terrain, unsuitable turf, inadequate drainage, and holes that lead to player injuries. To overcome these challenges, clubs suggested outdoor artificial turf fields that can be cleared of snow and easily maintained for spring, summer, and fall use — a solution frequently employed by similar Mountain West communities.

A desire to host regional tournaments was shared by a majority of clubs. Dedicated sports facilities aggregated into one location would help make this possible. Supporting facilities like hotels, campgrounds, and food and beverage would be welcome additions and could be revenue generators for the area.

For further detail and a summary of each club sport interview, please see the appendix.

# FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

	SV Lacrosse	SV Soccer Club	SV Ski Education Foundation	WR Volleyball Club	WR Select Basketball (Girls)	WR Select Basketball (Boys)	WR Pickleball Alliance	WR Baseball	WR Legacy Softball	WR Lacrosse	ID SURF Soccer Club
1. Need Additional Indoor Facilities:	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Need Additional Outdoor Facilities:	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Maintenance Concern for Existing Facilities:	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Private Funding Opportunities:		✓	✓				✓			✓	
5. Currently Utilizing BCRD Facilities:	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Currently Utilizing BCSD Facilities:	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Requested Tournament Space:	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	

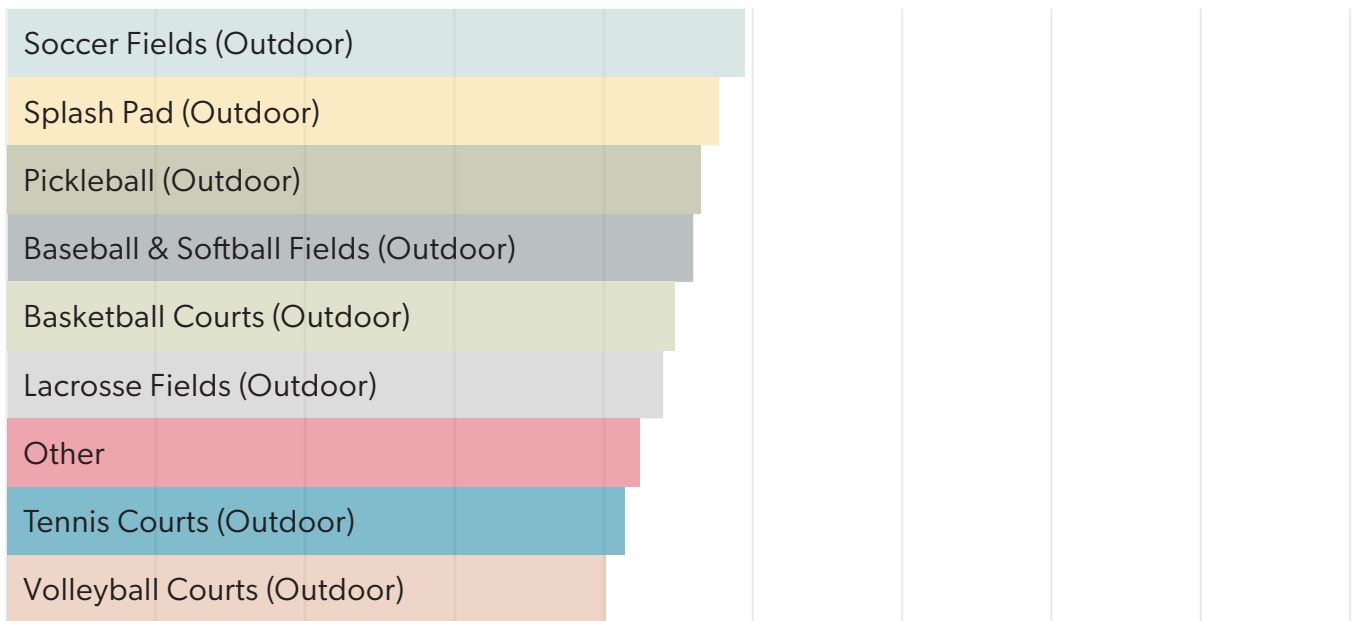
# CLUB SPORTS FACILITY REQUESTS

## AT A GLANCE

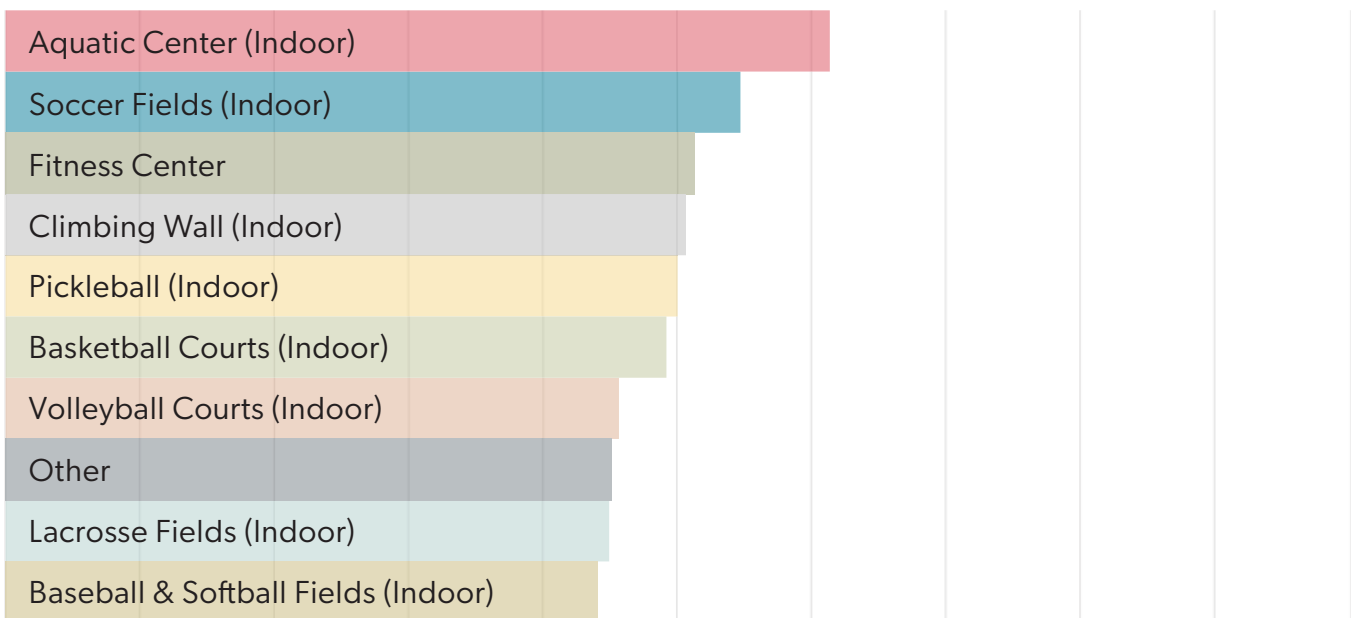
	OUTDOOR	INDOOR
<b>SV LACROSSE</b>	2-3 Fields (Synthetic + Natural Turf)	1 Field (Synthetic Turf)
<b>WR LACROSSE</b>	3 Fields (Synthetic Turf)	1 Field (Synthetic Turf)
<b>SV SOCCER CLUB</b>	1 Field (Natural Turf)	2 Fields (Synthetic Turf)
<b>ID SURF SOCCER CLUB</b>	1 Field (Natural Turf)	1-2 Fields (1 Walled) (Synthetic Turf)
<b>WR BASEBALL</b>	4 Fields (Synthetic Turf)	1 Field, 1 Strength & Conditioning Center
<b>WR LEGACY SOFTBALL</b>	1 Field (Synthetic Turf)	3 Fields (Synthetic Turf)
<b>WR SELECT BASKETBALL (GIRLS)</b>	—	1 Basketball Court
<b>WR SELECT BASKETBALL (BOYS)</b>	—	4 Basketball Courts
<b>WR VOLLEYBALL CLUB</b>	—	4 Volleyball Courts
<b>WR PICKLEBALL ALLIANCE</b>	8 Pickleball Courts	8 Pickleball Courts
<b>SV SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION</b>	—	1 Field, 1 Strength & Conditioning Center

# PUBLIC SURVEY FACILITY REQUESTS AT A GLANCE

## OUTDOOR RANK THE OUTDOOR SPACES BY THEIR BIGGEST NEED FOR FUTURE EXPANSION:



## INDOOR RANK THE INDOOR SPACES BY THEIR BIGGEST NEED FOR FUTURE EXPANSION:



# HISPANIC COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The Hispanic community in the Wood River Valley makes up a significant portion of BCRD's recreational users. To capture the needs of this community more fully, a focus group meeting was held with ten members of the Hispanic recreational community organized by a community coordinator. A translator was present to help facilitate discussion. An overarching theme that emerged was the need for an additional multipurpose indoor facility that accommodates athletic and recreational uses in addition to providing community services like educational classes, computer access, job opportunities, and daycare facilities. Strong preference for a location central to Hailey and Bellevue was expressed in addition to a need for more Spanish translation of facility signage, regulations, and policies. Other major takeaways from the conversation are provided here. A full summary of the discussion can be found in the appendix.

The current BCRD facility at the Community Campus does not meet all the indoor needs of the Hispanic community. They often find that it is too crowded and closes early. They would love to see an affordable facility in Hailey like the YMCA in Ketchum with recreational and sports facilities combined with spaces for studying, computer access, classes, and daycare. Specific programs mentioned include winter swimming lessons, dance classes, English classes, yoga, indoor soccer, and volleyball. Focus group members expressed that traveling to Ketchum feels far for residents south of Hailey and is especially challenging with winter driving conditions. A centrally located facility between Hailey and Bellevue would be ideal.

Special concerns for teen members of the Hispanic community were expressed in relation to a recreational facility. They would like to see participation in a sports league possible for teens that work after school and aren't able to make it to practice sessions many nights of the week. They would also like to see jobs available for teens that are compatible with the school and sports schedule. For adults, they would like to see an indoor soccer facility that is open late and has reasonable pricing.

Outdoor needs of the community are generally met by Founder's Field, Keefer Park, and the high school football field. These facilities were well rated, but improvements were requested. Founder's Field was rated as "good" but could use improved restrooms and more bleachers. Keefer Park received a rating of "great" but could use more parking, more areas to sit, more bleachers, a larger pavilion, and new basketball nets. In addition to current outdoor offerings, they would like to see more baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, and soccer fields closer to Hailey and Bellevue.

Among the Hispanic community, there is a desire for a new facility to be more community-focused, capable of hosting events, classes, childcare, and athletic uses as opposed to a purely sports-focused facility. Across facilities, they would like to see more Spanish translations available for rules and regulations governing use of the facilities, as it can often be difficult to navigate for non-English speakers.

# BCRD STAFF INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The Blaine County Recreation District employs around twenty community members to bring healthy, active, and diverse recreational experiences to Blaine County each day. We sat down with members of BCRD Team to hear their perspective on the community's recreational needs and get a better understanding of their organizational and operational needs to run and manage BCRD facilities. Highlights from that conversation are provided here. A complete summary can be found in the appendix.

BCRD staff confirm a need to expand current recreational offerings to meet current and future demands for both outdoor and indoor facilities. With projections for county growth in mind, they anticipate outgrowing the Community Campus in the next 3-5 years. They are currently getting by, but during peak hours of 4:00 to 8:00 pm, BCRD facilities are at maximum capacity. In addition to peak levels of public use, school and club teams are also utilizing BCSD and BCRD facilities for practice and competition during these after-school hours. Available space and programming during this time must be considered as new facilities are planned.

As any potential new facilities move forward in the planning process, extensive community engagement will be critical to ensure the public's recreational needs are met effectively and efficiently. A broad public encompassing all types of people should be served in a new facility: people of all ages and abilities (youth – seniors), recreational and club sports users, the Hispanic community, and residents located throughout the county.

Planning efforts should take into consideration tournament scheduling on weekends and availability of lighting to extend usage hours into the evening. Parking capacity and the availability of nearby camping and lodging options to serve tournament attendees will also be important to consider. For outdoor facilities, a mixture of synthetic and natural turf fields should be provided. The potential need for an indoor aquatic center should also be considered.



# ASSESSMENT

# EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES INVENTORY SUMMARY

During the months of September and October 2023, meetings and site visits were scheduled and performed with the area jurisdictions and their current stakeholders. The purpose of the meetings and assessments is to understand: the conditions and amenities of the existing parks and playfields; the existing scheduled use of the parks and fields; the conflicts and challenges that are existing; current and proposed plans for renovations and improvements; and the need for future growth or expansion. What follows are general impressions and observations.

The school district holds the largest number of athletic facilities in the county. Approximately two-thirds of athletic facilities in Blaine County are owned and operated by the school district. City-owned parks make up most of the remaining third. BCRD owns and operates an aquatic center and runs recreational programming out of the school district's Community Campus but has no sports fields or other athletic facilities of their own. The school district is anticipating future growth and increased demand for their facilities from school-related programs and activities, meaning club sports and community recreational leagues will have reduced access to school facilities. BCRD is also anticipating growth and is looking to meet increasing demand through additional facilities.

Much of BCRD's current recreational needs related to organized sports are being met by purpose-built spaces owned and operated by the school district or through city-owned fields where BCRD staff provide infrastructure and/or maintenance to accommodate organized sports.

Although there are 26 facilities listed in the *Existing Recreational Facilities Inventory*, Keefer and Lions Parks in Hailey, Atkinson Park in Ketchum<sup>1</sup>, and O'Donnell Park in Bellevue are the only non-school facilities with dedicated athletic fields. In other city-owned parks with adequate open space, BCRD supplies goals, striping, and portable toilets so small soccer fields can be accommodated. This places strain on BCRD's limited resources and requires coordination between property owners, BCRD, and facility users. Utilizing open fields for organized sports also means many young athletes are playing on field conditions that are, in many cases, not ideal for athletic use and increase the risk of injury.

Indoor facilities in the county are very limited. No public indoor turf facilities exist presently. Indoor basketball courts are owned and operated by the school district and are often utilized for other sports during the extended winter season, including volleyball, pickleball, soccer, baseball, softball, and lacrosse. The hard playing surface is not ideal for many of these uses.

Public recreational facilities in the county that are suitable for use by organized sports are inventoried on the following pages. Detailed inventory sheets on each recreational facility can be found in the appendix.

1. Atkinson Park is owned and operated by BCSD with the exception of one full-size soccer field in the southern corner of the site where Christina Potter's Ice Rink is located in the winter; this site is owned by the City of Ketchum.

# EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES INVENTORY SUMMARY CONTINUED

## **CITY OF SUN VALLEY**

Sun Valley does not have any athletic fields for public use. The Community School, a private school, has a 3-field soccer complex called Sagewillow, with restrooms which are very well maintained and utilized by the Community School soccer program. In the summer, the field is sometimes used for private soccer camps. The Air Barn is also situated on the Sagewillow campus and used by SVSEF.

## **CITY OF KETCHUM**

Atkinson Park, with numerous courts and playing fields, is the only property managed and maintained by the city. The park is adjacent to, and shared with, Hemingway Elementary School. Apart from Potter's ice rink (soccer field when bare of snow), all property is owned by BCSD. From stakeholder discussions, the City of Ketchum would like an indoor field house for spring sports and activities.

## **CITY OF HAILEY**

There are 7 neighborhood parks and 3 community parks. Much like the school district's properties, there is much pride in ownership that can be seen when visiting and using the parks, as the parks are well maintained and used. The city is currently working with consultants exploring ideas for specific uses for Hop Porter and Lions Park.

## **CITY OF BELLEVUE**

Bellevue has one significant sports complex, O'Donnell Park. It is heavily used with a baseball field and multiple soccer fields.

## **CITY OF CAREY**

Carey West Park is the main usable field space in Carey. The 4-acre park, currently used for youth football practice as well as other activities, has the potential for improved multipurpose fields. Future planning for the property will address community needs.

## **BLAINE COUNTY**

The county's only current parcel of land for sports and recreation is the Blaine County Fairgrounds in Carey. Although not currently used for sports-related activities, there is a large, well maintained open lawn area which could be repurposed and used for sports.

## **BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (BCSD)**

All fields and associated improvements are in very good condition. The grass fields are well maintained by a local landscape maintenance company. The ball fields have well maintained infields and suitable backstops. It was mentioned by Shawn Bennion that new backstops at some schools are needed. The high school track was recently resurfaced and the 4-lane track at the middle school needs resurfacing. There is a very high need for a fieldhouse for spring sports. The school district has, by far, the most sports fields in Blaine County.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Detailed assessments and summaries of the properties visited and reviewed can be found in the appendix.

# INVENTORY AT A GLANCE

	Ketchum Facilities	Hailey Facilities	Bellevue Facilities	Carey Facilities	BCRD Facilities	BCSD Facilities	TOTAL
<b>SOCCER (FULL SIZE)</b>	1	1	2			8	12
<b>BASEBALL</b>		2	1			6	9
<b>SOFTBALL</b>				2		6	8
<b>BASKETBALL</b>		3	2	1		7	13
<b>TENNIS</b>		2				13	15
<b>PICKLEBALL</b>		(4) <sup>2</sup>				8	8
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>		3				(2) <sup>2</sup>	3
<b>AQUATIC CENTER</b>					1		1
<b>RESTROOM</b>	1	6	1	1	2	5	17
<b>PAVILION</b>	1	5	2	1		1	10
<b>PLAY EQUIPMENT</b>	1	8	2	1		5	17

1. Small soccer fields are non-purpose-built open fields where small-scale soccer and other sports can be accommodated.
2. Numbers in parentheses indicate multi-sport courts that have already been listed under their primary use and therefore do not count towards the total amount of courts listed for their secondary uses.

# COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL NEEDS SUMMARY

The chart at right provides a summary of the community recreational needs as determined by two modes of input: interviews with club sports representatives and a public survey distributed to all BCRD recreational facility users. When viewed side by side, the results from these two forms of feedback reveal a more holistic picture of the recreational needs of the community. Also provided for reference is a count of the current recreational facilities existing in the county as determined by the facility inventory completed for this assessment.

Among outdoor facilities, full-size soccer/lacrosse fields are the greatest need for both club sports and the general public. Representatives from three different club sports organizations requested two to three full-size outdoor soccer/lacrosse fields. Importantly, club sports representatives make the distinction that these outdoor fields should be synthetic turf when possible so they can be cleared of snow for extended seasonal use. Additional outdoor baseball/softball diamonds were also requested by club sports representatives with the same preference for synthetic turf when possible. Four baseball diamonds were requested in a single complex to provide the ability to host tournaments. The soccer/lacrosse fields and pickleball courts were also asked to be in a single location for the same reason.

Outdoor pickleball courts emerged as a high priority for the community, ranking third on the public survey. The Wood River Pickleball Alliance requests an additional eight outdoor courts to host tournaments. There is a desire for more outdoor water-based play spaces for summer use, as outdoor splash pad ranked second in the public survey. Community needs are generally being met for outdoor tennis, basketball, and volleyball, as additional facilities were not requested for club sports and did not rank highly in public surveys. Comments gathered from public surveys and during the Hispanic Community Focus Group interview highlight a need for some maintenance and improvements of outdoor facilities, particularly soccer and basketball.

The need for indoor facilities is greater than the need for outdoor facilities according to both club sports interviews

and public survey results. Ranking first in public surveys is the need for an indoor aquatic center; indoor soccer fields rank second. Indoor soccer fields are also highly requested by the Hispanic Community Focus Group and club sports representatives. A full-size indoor soccer field with netted partitions could be utilized by soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball teams during the winter season. A smaller, walled indoor soccer arena is also requested and could be utilized for adult recreational leagues in addition to youth soccer and hockey leagues. An indoor fitness center ranked third in public surveys and was requested by two club sports organizations to aid in strength training and conditioning. A large turf field for baseball teams to practice indoors was requested by club sports representatives. This need could be met in a multipurpose field shared by soccer, lacrosse, softball, and baseball. Space for two to four indoor fields was requested by softball teams to host indoor tournaments. This request is tempered by the public survey ranking of last place for indoor baseball/softball facilities. An indoor practice facility may be more feasible than an indoor tournament facility at this time.

Additional indoor court space that could be utilized for basketball, volleyball, and pickleball came through as a medium priority in the public survey, ranking sixth, seventh, and fifth, respectively. These needs and those of club sports teams could be met in a four-court gymnasium. Indoor pickleball courts could alternatively be provided in a dedicated racket sports facility. Eight courts were requested for tournament play.

An important distinction to make is that these community recreational needs are reported, not assessed. Reported needs come directly from user input and represent an unfiltered view of community recreational needs. These three forms of input (existing facility inventory, club sports requests, and public survey results) create a clear picture of community need and set the stage for the next layer of analysis. A preliminary demand analysis that weighs each of these inputs can be found in the next chapter, *Recommendations*.

# COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL NEEDS

## AT A GLANCE

	OUTDOOR FACILITIES			INDOOR FACILITIES		
	EXISTING	CLUB NEEDS <sup>1</sup>	SURVEY RANK <sup>2</sup>	EXISTING	CLUB NEEDS <sup>1</sup>	SURVEY RANK <sup>3</sup>
<b>SOCCER/ LACROSSE FIELD (FULL SIZE)</b>	12	3	1 <sup>st</sup>	—	2	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>SOCCER/ LACROSSE FIELD (SMALL)</b>	18	—	1 <sup>st</sup>	—	1	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>BASEBALL DIAMOND</b>	9	4	4 <sup>th</sup>	—	1	10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>SOFTBALL DIAMOND</b>	8	3	4 <sup>th</sup>	—	1	10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>BASKETBALL COURT</b>	12	—	5 <sup>th</sup>	9	4	6 <sup>th</sup>
<b>TENNIS COURT</b>	15	—	8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	—
<b>PICKLEBALL COURT</b>	8	8	3 <sup>rd</sup>	—	8	5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>VOLLEYBALL COURT</b>	3	—	9 <sup>th</sup>	—	4	7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>AQUATIC CENTER /SPLASH PAD<sup>4</sup></b>	1	—	2 <sup>nd</sup>	—	—	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>FITNESS CENTER</b>	—	—	—	1	1	3 <sup>rd</sup>

1. Based on information gathered during interviews with club sports representatives.
2. Based on public survey results (question 8), with facilities ranked 1 through 9, where 1 represents the greatest need.
3. Based on public survey results (question 7), with facilities ranked 1 through 10, where 1 represents the greatest need.
4. Aquatic Center was represented as “Splash Pad (Outdoor)” in public surveys for outdoor facility ranking.

# OPPORTUNITIES

The following have been identified as significant opportunities for BCRD to consider as they look to improve their capacity to provide recreational opportunities to Blaine County.

**Improved coordination:** work with the school district and private facility operators to maximize efficient use of existing facilities in the county.

**Improve existing facilities:** modest improvements to existing county and municipal facilities could make some spaces more suitable for use by organized athletics. Though not a viable solution to meet all community recreational needs, this opportunity could help alleviate demand for practice space, particularly for younger athletes.

**Provide additional facilities:** based on public survey input, community feedback, and existing facility inventory, there is demand and support for additional recreational facilities. BCRD could meet this demand by providing additional recreational facilities for community use.

In planning for additional facilities, the following are key opportunities to consider that will help maximize the ability of new facilities to meet current and future recreational needs.

**Locate centrally:** find sites for additional facilities that are convenient to the entire county.

**Aggregate facilities:** co-locate facilities to meet practice and tournament adjacency requirements while also maximizing the efficiency of required supporting infrastructure.

**Design for multiple uses:** maximize usability and flexibility of facilities by designing them to be functional for multiple compatible sports.

**Size strategically:** anticipate seasonal schedules and future growth and size new facilities accordingly.

**Pursue alternative funding:** pursue grant funding and private funding sources to support facility improvements and expansion.





# RECOMMENDATIONS

# PRELIMINARY DEMAND ANALYSIS

Findings from community outreach and facility assessments indicate a strong demand for additional recreational facilities in Blaine County. Public surveys show high levels of public support for expansion, with 89% of respondents identifying a need for additional indoor facilities and 72% identifying a need for additional outdoor facilities. Interviews with club sports representatives and recreational community leaders also indicate a strong demand for additional practice and competition space, with every program interviewed reporting a need for additional facilities.

Inventories of existing facilities reveal an undersupply of indoor space and purpose-built outdoor athletic fields. Existing indoor facilities in the county are limited to school gyms and BCRD's rented space at the BCSD Community Campus, which features a fitness center and multi-purpose gymnasium open to public use. It routinely operates at full capacity during peak evening hours. No indoor turf fields exist in the county, leaving a large gap for soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball teams seeking training and competition space in the winter. During the extended winter months, available indoor spaces are highly contested for scheduled use. School programs receive priority use of school district facilities, limiting their availability for club teams and general community use. Approximately two-thirds of all athletic facilities in the county are owned by the school district with limited public access.

Outdoor inventory is similarly strained. Eight of the county's twelve full-size soccer fields are owned by the school district. No single facility is equipped with more than two full-size fields, leaving a gap in tournament-ready facilities. The demand for a facility equipped for tournament play is

high, with seven out of eleven programs interviewed requesting tournament space. A facility with multiple co-located fields or courts is needed to host tournaments in the valley and would also require adjacent support spaces like restrooms, concessions, spectator seating areas, and parking.

Public demand for an indoor aquatic center is also high. It was rated as the greatest need among indoor facilities in public surveys. Though an indoor pool is currently offered by the YMCA in Ketchum, many respondents felt this option was cost prohibitive or too far to travel from the southern half of the county, particularly in winter road conditions. An indoor aquatic center centrally located and operated at an affordable price-point for county families would be a welcome addition to the area's recreational offerings.

Based on these findings and goals outlined by BCRD, three primary recommendations are provided to guide BCRD as they work to continue providing diverse recreational opportunities to the community. First, a master plan that provides details for needed additional facilities should be pursued to better understand where and when new facilities can be accommodated. Second, an operations and funding plan should be developed to guide the implementation strategy for additional facilities. Finally, a new multi-purpose recreational facility that is centrally located and offers both indoor and outdoor facilities should be planned and constructed to improve access to quality recreational opportunities for Blaine County residents.

Further detail is provided on the pages that follow.

# GOALS

1

**PLAN FOR NEXT 50 YEARS.**

2

**EXPAND FACILITIES TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS.**

3

**CREATE A CENTRALIZED VENUE FOR  
ALL-SEASON MULTI-SPORT EVENTS.**

# RECOMMENDATIONS

1

**PURSUE A MASTER PLAN TO PROVIDE PROGRAMMING AND USAGE DETAILS FOR NEW AND EXISTING FACILITIES.**

2

**CREATE OPERATIONS AND FUNDING PLAN WITH IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE. FINALIZE STRATEGY FOR LAND ACQUISITION IF NEEDED.**

3

**DESIGN, PERMIT, AND CONSTRUCT PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPANSIONS PER MASTER PLAN AND ESTABLISHED BUDGET.**

# RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

1

## **Pursue a master plan to provide programming and usage details for new and existing facilities.**

A master planning effort should be undertaken to ensure BCRD's three primary goals are met: to plan for the next fifty years, expand facilities to meet community needs, and create a centralized venue for all-season multi-sport events. Planning should consider opportunities for the existing BCRD Aquatic Center, Quigley Trails Park, and a new recreation facility. A preliminary program for the new facility has been developed for this study. Additional site and programming details should be developed through the master planning process.

2

## **Create operations and funding plan with implementation schedule. Finalize strategy for land acquisition if needed.**

Following the master planning process, development of a funding and implementation strategy will help determine next steps. An assessment of BCRD's operational capacity should inform the schedule of implementation. Land acquisition, if needed, should be pursued as soon as possible to inform facility planning.

3

## **Design, permit, and construct planned improvements and expansions per master plan and established budget.**

The final recommendation is to implement the master plan. Design, engineering, and construction professionals should be engaged to complete the established scope of work. A phased construction approach may be necessary as determined by the implementation strategy and available land and funding.

# NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITY

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

According to facilities assessments and community feedback, there is a strong demand for additional recreational facilities in Blaine County. To meet this demand, BCRD should build a **new central indoor/outdoor sports complex**. This **150,000 – 200,000 SF indoor facility** would include: **(1) full-size lacrosse/soccer field**; an **elevated indoor track**, a **large multi-purpose gymnasium** with room for (4) basketball courts, (4) volleyball courts, or (6) pickleball courts; **BCRD administrative offices**; **(5) multi-purpose rooms**, each with a capacity for 100 people; and amenity and support spaces.

The **outdoor area** should include: **(2) full size soccer/lacrosse fields with synthetic turf** for extended seasonal use; **(1) multi-purpose natural grass field**; **(2) full-size baseball diamonds**; **(1) small-size baseball diamond**; **(1) basketball court**; **(4) pickleball courts**; **(2) volleyball courts**; **(1) splash pad**; **(1) playground**; and amenity and support spaces. Additional indoor/outdoor fields as well as an indoor aquatic center should be considered for **future expansion**.

### Preliminary Program:

#### Indoor

- (1) Track
- (5) Multi-purpose rooms with 100-person capacity
- (1) BCRD admin offices
- (1) Full-size soccer field
  - inclusive of lacrosse and baseball use
- (1) Fitness center
- (6) Pickleball courts
- (4) Volleyball courts
- (4) Basketball courts
- (1) Cafe/concessions

#### Outdoor

- (2) Full-size synthetic turf soccer fields
  - inclusive of multiple uses
- (1) Multi-purpose natural grass field
- (2) Full-size baseball diamonds
- (1) Small-size baseball diamond
- (1) Basketball court
- (4) Pickleball courts
- (2) Volleyball courts
- (1) Splash pad
- (1) Playground
- (1) Cafe/concessions

# NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITY PROGRAM AREA REQUIREMENTS

TOTAL AREA NEEDED:

**34** ACRES

Provided area requirements are approximations based on code requirements, industry standards, and league regulations. Actual square footage may vary. Area multipliers according to industry standards are applied after area subtotals to account for circulation space, spectator areas, and parking.

## INDOOR

Facility	Amount	Area (SF)	Subtotal
Soccer/Multi-Purpose Turf Field	1	81,000	81,000
Indoor Elevated Track	1	0	0
Multi-Purpose Rooms	5	1,500	7,500
Basketball	4	3,000	12,000
Volleyball	4	0	0
Pickleball	6	0	0
Fitness Center	1	10,000	10,000
BCRD Admin Offices	1	10,000	10,000
Cafe/Concessions	1	2,000	2,000

**Subtotal: 122,500 SF**  
 + circulation (30%) 36,750 SF  
 + spectation (20%) 24,500 SF  
**Total Building Area: 183,750 SF**  
 + parking (50%) 61,250 SF  
**Total Site Area: 245,000 SF**

## OUTDOOR

Facility	Amount	Area (SF)	Subtotal
Full-Size Synthetic Turf Soccer Field	2	81,000	162,000
Multi-Purpose Natural Grass Field	1	81,000	81,000
Full-Size Baseball Diamond	2	125,000	250,000
Small-Size Baseball Diamond	1	84,000	84,000
Basketball Court	1	6,000	6,000
Volleyball Court	2	2,000	4,000
Pickleball Court	4	2,000	8,000
Splash Pad	1	2,500	2,500
Playground	1	20,000	20,000
Cafe/Concessions	1	2,000	2,000

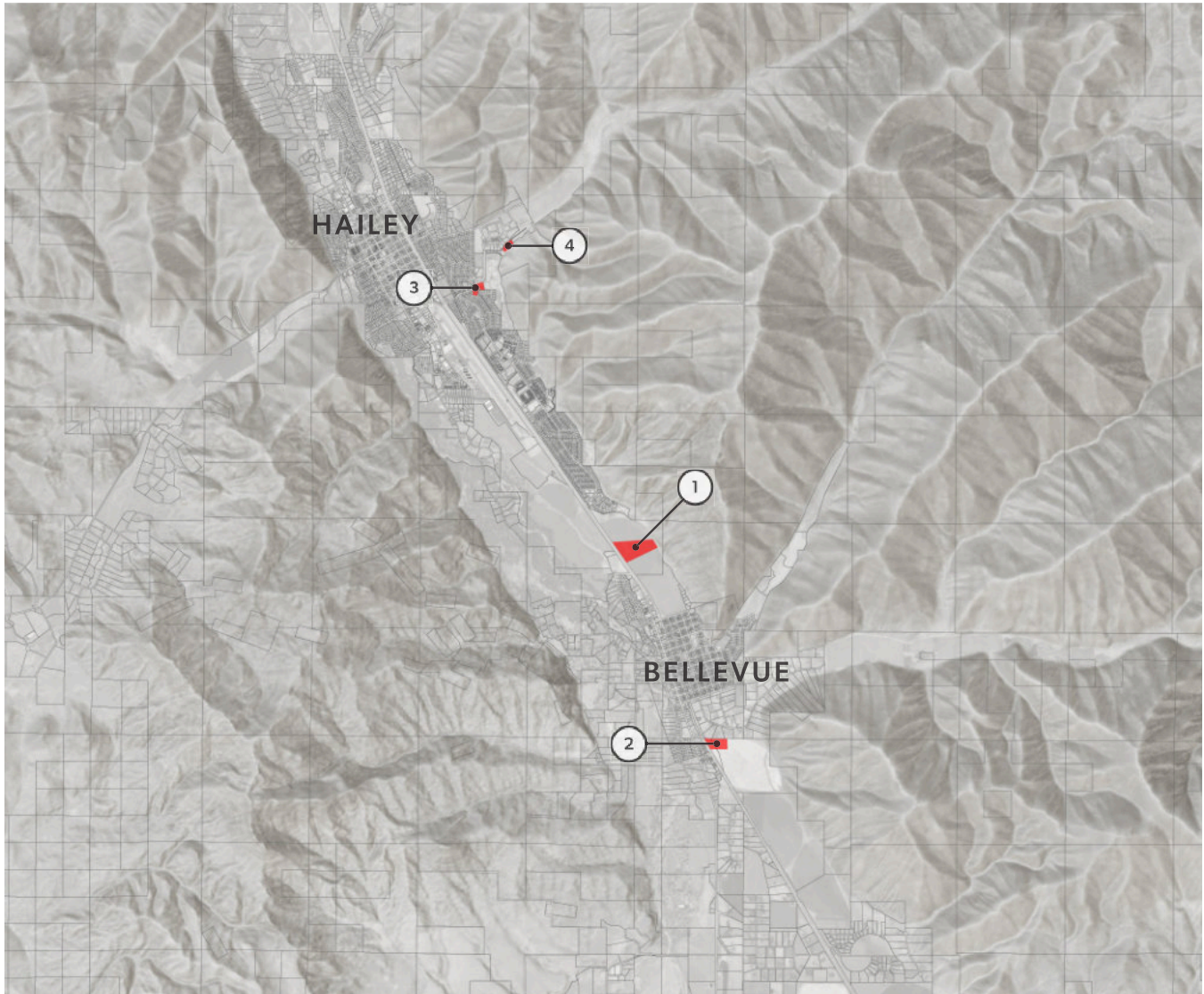
**Subtotal: 619,500 SF**  
 + circulation (30%) 185,850 SF  
 + spectation (20%) 123,900 SF  
 + parking (50%) 309,750 SF  
**Total Site Area: 1,239,000 SF**

Outdoor Site Area Requirements: 1,239,000 SF or 28.4 Acres  
 + Indoor Site Area Requirements: 245,000 SF or 5.6 Acres

**Total Outdoor + Indoor Site Area Requirements: 1,484,000 SF or 34 Acres**

# NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITY OPPORTUNITY SITES

The following sites have been identified as potential locations for the development of additional recreational facilities. Multiple sites may be required to accommodate needed facilities.



## 1. Flying Hat Ranch East

- + 25 to 30 acres available
- + potential partnership
- + centrally located

## 2. Gannett Road Ranch

- + 15 acres potentially available
- site availability pending annexation approval
- site may be designated as school, leaving limited access to recreational facilities

## 3. BCRD Aquatic Center

- + owned by BCRD
- limited space available (~2 acres)

## 4. BCRD Quigley Trails Park

- + owned by BCRD
- limited space available (~3 acres)



# APPENDIX

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# PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

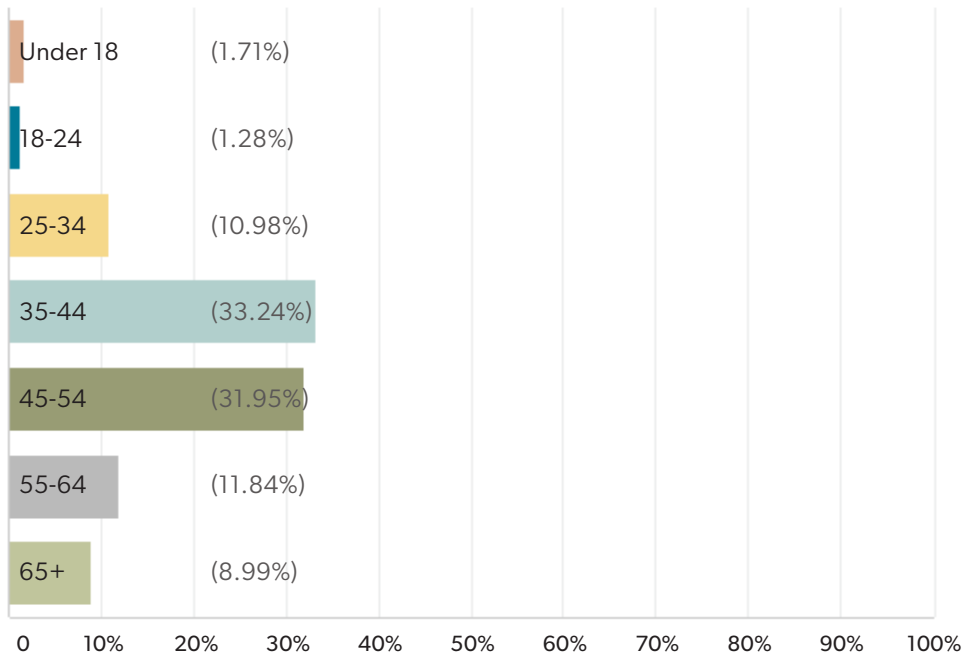
## SUMMARY

- 704 total respondents
- Conducted through Survey Monkey
- Available in English and Spanish
- Open 09.13.23 – 11.10.23
- Distributed through BCRD email list, BCRD Newsletters, Idaho Mountain Express, and BCSD email list.

## AGE?

Answered: 701                      Skipped: 3

The majority of respondents were between the age of 35 and 54.

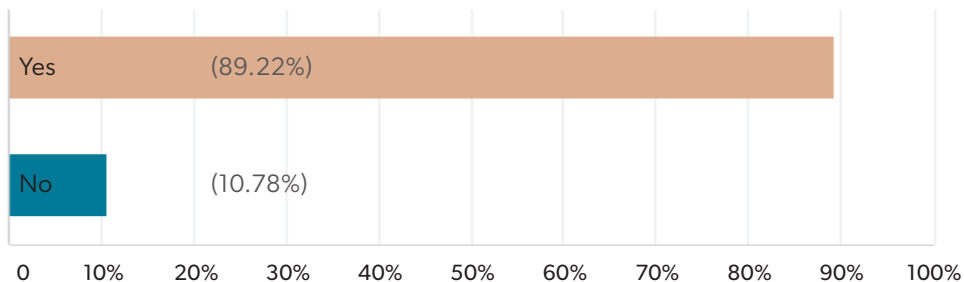


## DO YOU THINK WE NEED MORE INDOOR RECREATIONAL SPORT FIELDS AND COURTS?

(e.g., indoor volleyball courts, soccer fields, pickleball courts, lacrosse fields, fitness center, climbing wall, basketball courts, baseball/softball fields, and aquatic center)

Answered: 696                      Skipped: 8

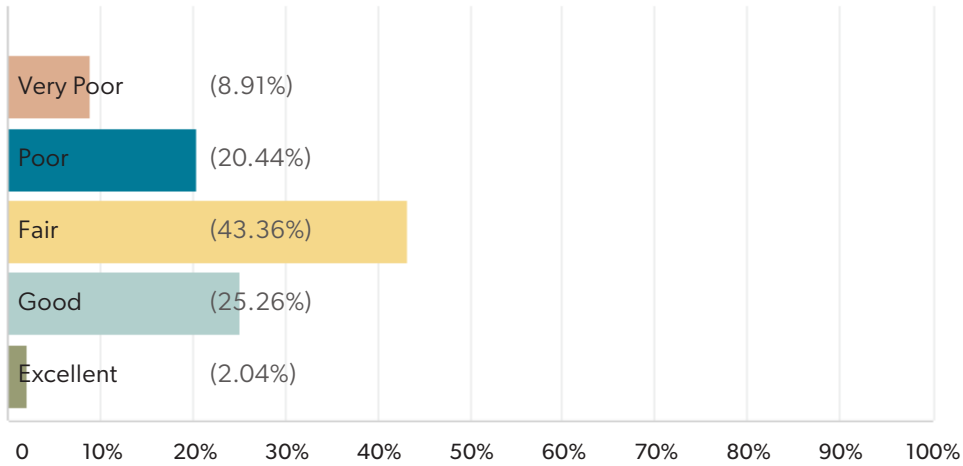
Nearly 90% of respondents believe more indoor sport fields and courts are needed.



### WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE QUALITY OF CURRENT INDOOR SPORT FIELDS AND COURTS?

Answered: 685 Skipped: 19

Less than a third of respondents rate the quality of current indoor facilities as 'good' or above.

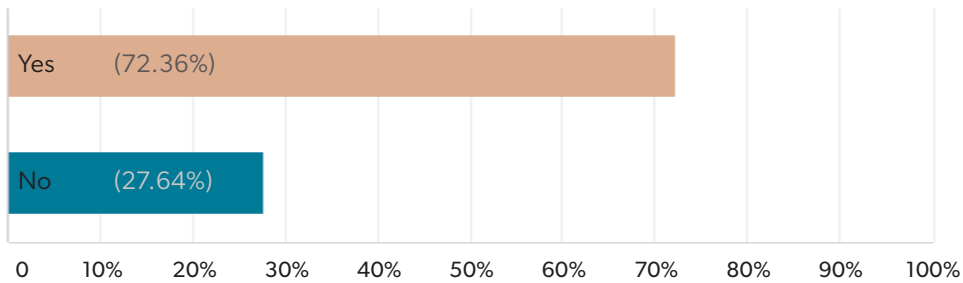


### DO YOU THINK WE NEED MORE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL SPORT FIELDS AND COURTS?

(e.g., outdoor volleyball courts, tennis courts, splash pad, soccer fields, pickleball courts, lacrosse fields, basketball courts, and baseball/softball fields)

Answered: 691 Skipped: 13

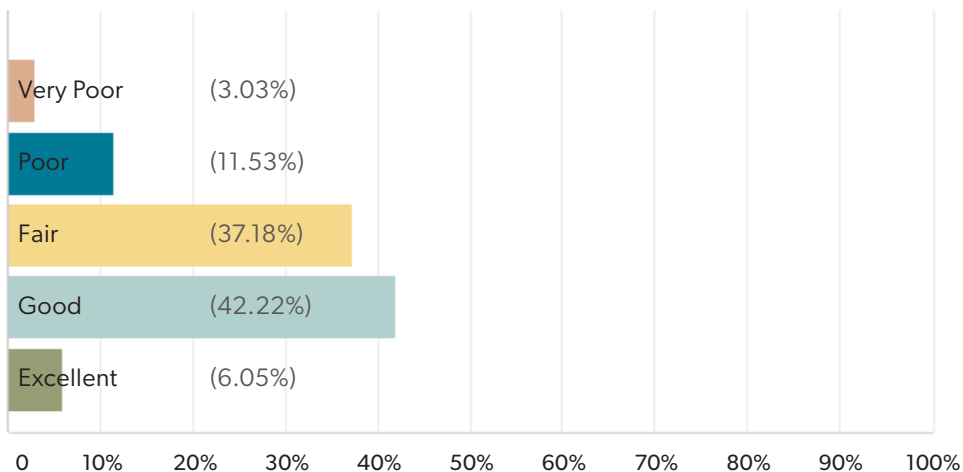
Over 70% of respondents believe more outdoor sport fields and courts are needed.



### WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE QUALITY OF CURRENT OUTDOOR SPORT FIELDS AND COURTS?

Answered: 694 Skipped: 10

Almost half of respondents rate the quality of current outdoor facilities as 'good' or above.

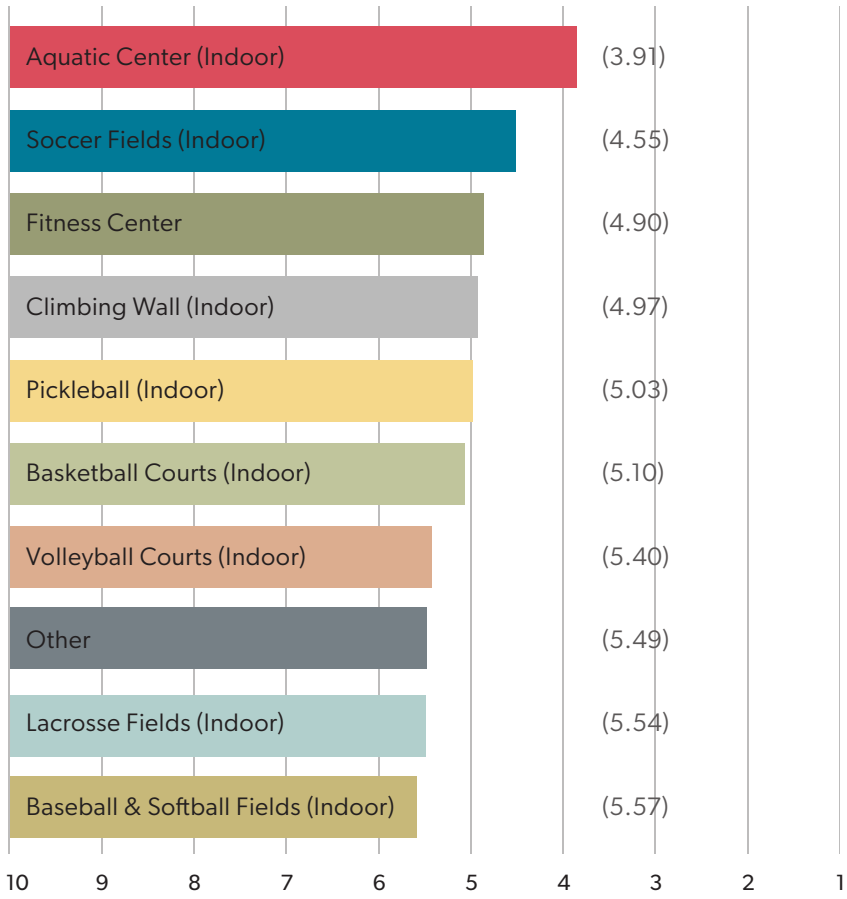


**ORDER THE INDOOR SPACES BY THEIR BIGGEST NEED FOR FUTURE EXPANSION.**

(1 is the most important and 10 is the least important.)

Answered: 680      Skipped: 24

Indoor Aquatic Center was rated as the biggest need for future expansion.

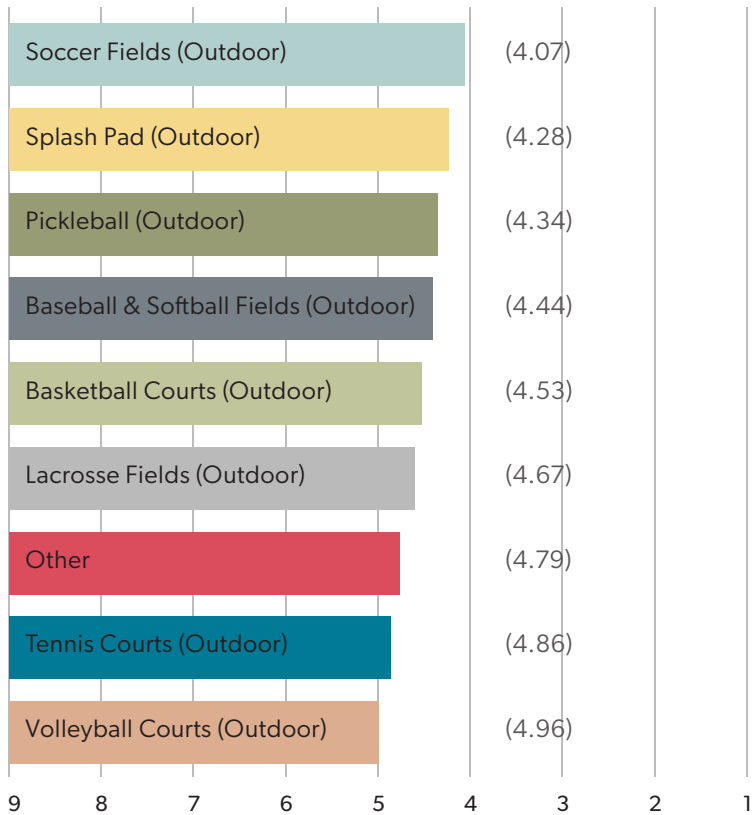


**ORDER THE OUTDOOR SPACES BY THEIR BIGGEST NEED FOR FUTURE EXPANSION.**

(1 is the most important and 9 is the least important.)

Answered: 613 Skipped: 91

Outdoor Soccer Fields were rated as the biggest need for future expansion.



**USING 1-3 WORDS, WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE BIGGEST RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY?** (i.e., indoor/outdoor soccer fields, indoor/outdoor pickleball courts, indoor/outdoor baseball fields, etc.)

(i.e., indoor/outdoor soccer fields, indoor/outdoor pickleball courts, indoor/outdoor baseball fields, etc.)

Answered: 610 Skipped: 94

The most commonly mentioned need was an aquatic center.



# CLUB SPORTS INTERVIEWS

## SUMMARY

- Interviews conducted between 10.13.23 and 11.10.23
- 11 club sports organizations interviewed:
  1. Sun Valley Lacrosse
  2. Sun Valley Soccer Club
  3. Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation
  4. Wood River Volleyball Club
  5. Wood River Select Basketball (Girls)
  6. Wood River Select Basketball (Boys)
  7. Wood River Pickleball Alliance
  8. Wood River Baseball
  9. Wood River Legacy Softball
  10. Wood River Lacrosse
  11. Idaho SURF Soccer Club

## **SUN VALLEY LACROSSE**

October 16, 2023

### Attendees:

Sun Valley Lacrosse

BCRD

GGLO

### **WHAT CURRENTLY WORKS FOR YOU?**

- Sun Valley Lacrosse, Inc. is a non-profit, volunteer organization with a 501-C(3) designation, offering youth programs ranging from K-8th grades as well as High School programs at Sun Valley and Wood River High School.
- Traditionally Lacrosse is considered a spring sport (beginning once the snow melts (spring break) until the end of the school year, Memorial Day). When there is a longer snow season, they work with Mollie at BCRD to find a suitable indoor space or alternate arrangement.

### **WHAT IS NOT CURRENTLY SERVING YOUR NEEDS AND WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON YOUR PARTICIPANTS?**

- Performing sports on snow is unsafe as it can cause injuries. They cannot remove snow on natural turf fields, artificial turf has better snow removal capabilities. They do play at alternate locations but have difficulty scheduling time. Using the indoor gym and parking lots are appreciated, but the playing surface is very different from what is needed.
- Lack of number of fields and the uncertainty of weather conditions does not allow for home games. Instead, more that 250 kids are traveling every weekend to places as far as Wyoming, Montana, Utah, and Colorado.
- Currently, they use the middle school football and soccer fields but have difficulty scheduling.
- Lacrosse is moving to a year-round schedule with fall practice at Sagewillow.

### **OVER THE NEXT 10-15 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CLUB SPORT?**

- They would like an indoor practice facility to do year-round programs such as drills and clinics. Only a half field would be needed.
- Synthetic turf on 2-3 outdoor fields to plow and use before spring break. This can be shared in the fall with soccer. Balancing synthetic with natural turf is important.
- The junior and high school programs will be combined in the near future to provide better access to sport.
- They would like to host tournaments, on and off-season in the Valley. This would bring a large number of players and spectators.

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- So far, the participation has grown 10-20% and anticipate it doubling every couple of years, tripling in 5 years; possibly with 900+ participants.

## **SUN VALLEY SOCCER CLUB**

October 23, 2023

### Attendees:

Sun Valley Soccer Club

BCRD

GGLO

### **WHAT CURRENTLY WORKS FOR YOU?**

- Sun Valley Soccer Club is a non-profit youth soccer organization with an endowment.
- Participation varies between 200 and 400 participants (from fall to spring respectively).
- Soccer is growing in popularity.
- At full capacity, they have 18 teams.
- Age ranges 8-18 (2015-2005), year-round programs, fall and spring seasons June to May. Currently use any field available. The most used school district fields include Hailey Elementary, Hemingway Elementary, Wood River High School, Sun Valley Community School (sometimes), and Gravity Fitness.
- Hailey Elementary works well with the bleachers removed.
- School district fields are well maintained.
- The mini-kickers program, ages 6-8 (2017-2015), runs April-June. Currently use Atkinson Park as it has adequate storage.

### **WHAT IS NOT CURRENTLY SERVING YOUR NEEDS AND WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON YOUR PARTICIPANTS?**

- They could always utilize more field space. This affects player travel, location and distance. They have considered a bussing program to accommodate travel.
- Typically, they play outside as early as April when the snow melts through the summer into the fall until weather permits. Finding a place to practice and play inside is challenging.
- Scheduling uses at the Church of the Big Wood has been unsuccessful.
- There has not been space available in BCRD gym.
- They typically practice after school between 3:00 and 7:00 pm. When it gets dark earlier, they have to move up practice time. This becomes problematic as the school district only permits facility use after 5:00 pm and the high school is the only facility with outdoor lights.
- Most of the fields do not have lines, requiring them to contract it out.
- City-maintained fields could be improved. The most used city-maintained fields include McKercher Park, Old Cutters Park, Keefer Park, Atkinson Park, and Founders Field.

### **OVER THE NEXT 10-15 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CLUB SPORT?**

- They would like to see an indoor facility or field house with artificial turf large enough for 2 soccer fields.
- Hailey is the most central location.
- Outdoor fields should have artificial turf so they can plow (and potentially heat) them.
- Reference facilities mentioned include Jackson Hole Indoor in Jackson, Simplot in Boise, and Sunway Soccer Complex in Twin Falls.

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- They have an endowment for an indoor facility but have been priced out of the area for available land. They would be open to a partnership to build an indoor facility.
- Sun Valley Community School is building a field house.
- BCRD discussed potential future opportunities for a sports complex at Flying Hat Ranch and/or the Rodeo Grounds.

## **SUN VALLEY SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

November 10, 2023

### Attendees:

Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation

BCRD

GGLO

### **WHAT CURRENTLY WORKS FOR YOU?**

- Currently, they have over 1,000 children participate in the program for winter sports and growing.
- Most of the activities occurs in the Nordic Center at Lake Creek in North Ketchum.
- They also use Sagewillow's Air Barn, BCRD's FitWorks gym, and a BCRD yurt at Quigley.
- They fundraised with Sagewillow to get the Air Barn built.

### **WHAT IS NOT CURRENTLY SERVING YOUR NEEDS AND WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON YOUR PARTICIPANTS?**

- As the program grows, so will the need for more indoor space.
- The south valley has the highest demand with the least number of facilities.
- Use of the FitWorks gym is starting to compete with other programs and club sports needing the space more.

### **OVER THE NEXT 10-15 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CLUB SPORT?**

- They need an open space for strength and conditioning training in the south valley as well as another space like the Air Barn.
- They are looking for a university style training facility like UO or Boise State Football.

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- The 10,000 SF Air Barn is under pressure to open up to community. Summer camps sell out within a few minutes of open enrollment.

## **WOOD RIVER VOLLEYBALL CLUB**

October 17, 2023

### Attendees:

Wood River Volleyball Club

BCRD

GGLO

### **WHAT CURRENTLY WORKS FOR YOU?**

- Volleyball has been a club sport in the valley for 20 years, serving 100+ kids 4th-12th grades.
- Season (indoor)
  - Club 3-month season, January - March and February - April.
  - Select 6-month season, December - May.
- They work with BCRD to provide an introduction to volleyball class for K-6th graders.
- When available, the gym can be rented.
- Using the cafeteria as an alternate space has worked well.
- They use the 2 sand courts in the summer.
- They can turn 2 basketball courts into 4 volleyball courts.

### **WHAT IS NOT CURRENTLY SERVING YOUR NEEDS AND WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON YOUR PARTICIPANTS?**

- Access is a concern as they struggle to have gym space. They had to cut their program in half because there is not enough space.
  - The school district has scheduling priority.
  - The middle school is only available 2 days/week with 3 courts.
  - They compete with the needs of outside sports.
  - They would like to add a youth program.
  - They would like to have private lessons and expand their summer program
  - Many kids wind up traveling to Boise to participate in sports there.
- They tried utilizing Gravity but was too loud to continue using those facilities.

### **OVER THE NEXT 10-15 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CLUB SPORT?**

- Ideally, they need 4 dedicated Wood River Volleyball courts. This would enable them to host tournaments and cut down on traveling to other venues outside the area.

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- They own some net systems and are willing to share resources with BCRD.
- Mollie with BCRD has been very accommodating with space requests when she can. They appreciate the partnership with BCRD.

## **WOOD RIVER SELECT BASKETBALL (GIRLS)**

October 13, 2023

### Attendees:

Wood River Select Basketball  
Wood River Middle School Basketball  
BCRD  
GGLO

### **WHAT CURRENTLY WORKS FOR YOU?**

- Streamlining gym time to one building is helpful. Currently, they use the Hailey Elementary school for practice.
- BCRD, Hailey, and middle school gyms are the best options for practice.
- The middle school works well for games.

### **WHAT IS NOT CURRENTLY SERVING YOUR NEEDS AND WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON YOUR PARTICIPANTS?**

- The middle school court is too loud and too small to run two practices at once. They can only practice on side courts there. There is only one full size court.
- Alturas and Bellevue are the worst locations for practice.
- Hailey Elementary has broken backboards and the rims are too short for adequate practice.
- Available gym time impacts participation levels.
  - They currently compete with the school district and other club sports (soccer and volleyball) court time.
  - They are unable to schedule the use of Hailey Elementary in December due to competing events.
  - Demand for court time has increased as many club sports are transitioning from seasonal to year-round sports. Seasonal sports are supposed to have priority scheduling, but that is not happening.

### **OVER THE NEXT 10-15 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CLUB SPORT?**

- More options for court time.
- Not having to compete with other sports.
- Better align facility use with the needs of each sport (e.g., Do not use space if another location will work just as well, i.e., Volleyball can use the cafeteria instead of the court.)
- New community facility for multi-sports.

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- Wood River Select Basketball season runs from October - March, depending on the gender.
- Club sports serve mostly middle schoolers from South Valley.
- Club volleyball use of the cafeteria seems to work well for them.

## **WOOD RIVER SELECT BASKETBALL (BOYS)**

October 17, 2023

### Attendees:

Wood River Select Basketball

BCRD

GGLO

### **WHAT CURRENTLY WORKS FOR YOU?**

- The Wood River Select Basketball group supports boys' and girls' basketball 4th-8th grades, divided into teams for each grade level. Generally, there are 4-5 teams per gender with some years having more participation than others. This calculates to 40-50 teams each season. It is a volunteer, non-profit organization.
- The season for 4th-6th grades runs November - March. Upper grades run November - December.
- They use the school district facilities for practices on a rental basis.
- There are a few other basketball groups including the following:
  - Storm Girls was absorbed by Wood River Select.
  - Outlaws
  - Da Baby Elite program is youth organized with summer programs.

### **WHAT IS NOT CURRENTLY SERVING YOUR NEEDS AND WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON YOUR PARTICIPANTS?**

- Use of the school district facilities requires that they navigate around school activities and other group schedules. Sometimes there is no one to open up the gym for practice.
- There may be enough gyms in the Valley, but it is difficult to access them during peak times (5-8pm). Often, they have to hold practice with multiple teams, at the same time and location.
- They like BCRD facilities, but currently do not use them due to availability/access. It is only available at certain times and require access outside gym hours.

### **OVER THE NEXT 10-15 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CLUB SPORT?**

- The valley needs indoor space as the winters are long and there is not enough indoor space for all sports.
- They need access to 4 indoor courts 5-8pm.
- Reference Mettle Sports in Nampa, Idaho (multi-use space) and Home Court in Boise, ID (5 courts).

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- It is important to focus on an economical solution that supports multiple sports.
- Keefer has 4 outdoor courts. There is not an overwhelming need to add outdoor courts.

## WOOD RIVER PICKLEBALL ALLIANCE

October 13, 2023

### Attendees:

Wood River Pickleball Alliance

BCRD

GGLO

### WHAT CURRENTLY WORKS FOR YOU?

- This year, they became a charitable 501(c)(3) organization with over 300 members.
- Once they create an event, it fills up.
- Dues are used to provide equipment and set up (tape) temporary courts and facilities upgrades.
- This is the first year with a league. It runs 6 weeks and ultimately had to cap it at 120 people with 60 alternates.
- The club is very involved in community outreach.
- There are currently over 60 courts (public and private) in the Wood River Valley. The only public ones are Atkinson Park, Heagle Park, Wood River High School, and BCRD.

#### Ketchum

- Atkinson Park (public/free)
  - 4 Outdoor, dedicated courts
  - 4 Outdoor, blended lines (Tennis & Pickleball)
  - Free Friday Clinics
- YMCA (private/fee based)
  - 1 temporary
- Big Wood (private)
  - 4 dedicated courts
- The Pioneer Club (private/fee based)
  - 1 Indoor, dedicated court, 70% size, lights

#### Warm Springs

- Prospector (private)
  - 2 blended lines (Tennis & Pickleball (private))
- Greycourt (private)
  - 2 blended lines (Tennis & Pickleball)

#### Sun Valley

- Sun Valley Resort (private/fee based)
  - 8 Outdoor, dedicated courts
- Elkhorn (private)
  - 8 Outdoor, dedicated courts

#### Mid Valley

- Heatherlands (private)
  - 4 dedicated courts
- The Valley Club (private/fee based)
  - 8 Outdoor, dedicated courts
  - 4 Indoor, dedicated courts

#### Hailey

- Heagle Park (public/free)
  - 4 Outdoor, blended lined courts (Tennis & Pickleball)
- Wood River Valley High School (public/free, seasonal)
  - 4 Outdoor, temporary blended taped
- BCRD (public/fee based)
  - 6 Indoor, blended taped lines (Basketball, Volleyball & Pickleball)
- Gravity Fitness & Tennis (private/fee based)
  - 4 Indoor, blended taped lines (Tennis & Pickleball)

- Mormon Church (private)
  - 1 Indoor, blended taped lines (Basketball, Volleyball & Pickleball)

**WHAT IS NOT CURRENTLY SERVING YOUR NEEDS AND WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON YOUR PARTICIPANTS?**

- There are not many public/free courts and access to private courts can be limited, depending on membership type.
- There are only 4 public locations:
  - Atkinson Park in Ketchum
    - Difficult to schedule, people are routinely waiting for court time.
    - The City of Ketchum does not have any plans to add any public courts.
  - Heagle Park in Hailey
    - Heagle Park is unsafe because of cracks and is too expensive to fix.
  - Wood River Valley High School in Hailey
    - Wood River Valley High School courts are taped which comes off easily. They can only access school district courts on the weekend when school is in session.
  - BCRD in Hailey
    - BCRD has great access to the public facilities but does not meet the overall demand or required acrylic surface.
- Multi-use courts are not ideal as they include many lines that are confusing, making it difficult to play and or understand the sport.
- Gymnasium surfaces are different and ideally need a tennis court type sand surface.

**OVER THE NEXT 10-15 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CLUB SPORT?**

- Need 16 courts (minimum 50% indoor) to host a major national tournament in the Wood River Valley. This would bring players from around the country to the area, plus spectators which would bring additional dollars to the local economy. This could be a public/private (P3) partnership. They would need BCRD's help in coordinating the tournament (professional operators could be hired to run tournaments). Room for expansion should be considered in the long-term planning process.
- They have preliminary plans to add 1-2 public/private funded/operated facilities but need location(s)/property.
  - Ketchum
  - Hailey or Sun Valley
- More multi-sport racket facilities (tennis, paddle, pickleball, racquetball, squash) are better.
- There is a belief that pickleball facilities should be located in Sun Valley, Ketchum, and Hailey with a major facility operated by BCRD in a new sports complex.

**ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- Demand for Pickleball is increasing nationwide and locally. It is the fastest growing sport nationally.
- Nationally, 50% of pickleball participants are below 34 years old.
- Pickleball noise 70 (ball) - 100 (people) dB.

## **WOOD RIVER BASEBALL**

October 4, 2023

### Attendees:

Wood River Baseball

BCRD

GGLO

### **WHAT CURRENTLY WORKS FOR YOU?**

- Positive relationship with BCRD and Cities

### **WHAT IS NOT CURRENTLY SERVING YOUR NEEDS AND WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON YOUR PARTICIPANTS?**

- Lacking well maintained natural turf or synthetic turf fields to avoid injuries. An injury can deter a kid from playing sports – our numbers are low, we need every kid.
- Kids are getting injured at Lion’s Park in Hailey; currently the field surface is irregular and not ideal for baseball.
- Good safe fields and quality coaching are the key to success.
- Baseball feels forgotten about right now. Fields get neglected, coaches are spending time mowing lawns and pulling weeds, taking away from other things.

### **OVER THE NEXT 10-15 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CLUB SPORT?**

- Synthetic turf and covered fields would extend field use for months; need a sports complex to better serve community needs.
- Need better drainage due to snow and rain, spring snow melt for natural turf fields.
- Indoor synthetic turf fields are a must, Wood River Valley is one of the only communities in this region without.
- A sports complex needs to be big enough to accommodate multiple sports. Current trend is for multiple sports, do as many things as you can while you are young. Ages 8-16 = the highest window for athleticism and development. Beyond that is specific skill development, so 8-16 we need facilities to support multiple sports to develop good athletes, build competitors.
- Indoor facility for baseball with nets on tracks for hitting, dry land for skiing and snowboarding, lacrosse, etc. for the whole valley. Teams to run practice. Strength and conditioning capacity – body awareness, balance coordination, foundation of strength through agility and mobility. Strength and Conditioning Center.
- Needs to have a high ceiling to allow for pop flies, QB 50 yard passes. 40,000 sf size. Include a track. Field needs to be marked out (50 yard line, etc.). Baseball and Football May - July in the Wood River Valley. May 3 was the first home game this year. Indoor facility lengthens the sport season and development significantly. 3 months doesn’t cut it.
- Capacity: Both indoor and outdoor adjacent, available for rec leagues for adults, kids sports, training, tournaments. 4-plex synthetic field outdoor baseball/softball fields with lights would be sufficient for tournaments. Would extend season from April - October. Separate soccer fields/flat field sports. Would host 2 tournaments instead of 1 if we had the facilities. Would also add a fall league.

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- PNW is known for strong fundamentals because of weather, lots of time inside working on fundamentals compared to California or Arizona kids who are gamers but lack fundamentals.
- Synthetic turf may have an initial cost, but life cycle cost is less over time. No data that shows synthetic turf increases injuries in baseball, in fact the opposite. Over 5 years with snow and frost heaving, fields become uneven, hard to maintain a smooth field, balls get redirected and injure players.
- Potential Case Studies:
  - Saco, Maine: Indoor facility with 6 basketball courts, multiple fields, gym, 21+ bar above – access and used year round – baseball, soccer lacrosse, flag football, pickleball, senior yoga and Tai Chi.

- Jackson Hole High School Fields, Jackson Hole, Wyoming: 15 fall league soccer and baseball practices going on after school on a very large synthetic turf practice field adjacent to the high school football field – 100 adults, 400 youths, e-biking from all over town - mix of recreation and community. Paths connecting kids to and from school that are safe, no nearby parking lots, walking and biking.
- Filer, ID Sports Complex: 30 teams coming in a few days in July fills hotels and RV Parks. RV Park made entire complex sustainable (30 Hookup Sites) in Filer. Full even on non-holiday and non-tournament weekends.
- Settlers Park in Meridian.
- Support services: Restaurant/bar for parents having a beer during kids sports so they don't have to drive back and forth. Place for food trucks?
- Community appetite for financial support: skeptical, seems to be a challenge which is surprising – a lot of the money is from people not here full time. A shared multi-sport facility for skiing, hockey, dryland, baseball, soccer, lacrosse might be broad enough to garner support. Pickleball courts will bring a lot of support from 60+ age group.

## **WOOD RIVER LEGACY SOFTBALL**

October 17, 2023

### Attendees:

Sun Valley Lacrosse

BCRD

GGLO

### **WHAT CURRENTLY WORKS FOR YOU?**

- Fields are readily available throughout the day, but less available during peak hours 5:00-8:00 pm.
- Fields are being reserved by baseball and soccer and not being used.
- Softball is a growing sport, increasing from 20 to 60 kids over the last few years.
- The fields are popular in the summer.
- Currently use Keefer Park (1 field) and Nelson Fields (3 fields) with Nelson being used for tournaments.
- Season runs from spring to summer.

### **WHAT IS NOT CURRENTLY SERVING YOUR NEEDS AND WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON YOUR PARTICIPANTS?**

- The lack of an indoor facility prevents them from starting the season earlier in the spring/winter and from practicing in the fall. They were only able to have one home game this year. It is difficult to practice on a gym floor.
- Currently they share equipment, making it difficult to run practices from multiple locations. There is not a space where they have two full-size fields next to each other.
- Keeping the boys and girls together contributes to decline in participation, year to year. Softball suggested restructuring the program to separate the boys and girls at an earlier age.
- Many of the fields are not set up with the best, most efficient layout. They could be reconfigured to provide more fields.
- Maintenance falls on the club. Maintenance should be priority.

### **OVER THE NEXT 10-15 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CLUB SPORT?**

- A place to have multiple teams (e.g. (2-4) fields side-by-side) in a complex (i.e., Idaho Falls complex) serving multiple sports (soccer, softball, and baseball together) in a central location near the High School in Hailey. This could be one big indoor complex with turf, supporting soccer, softball, lacrosse, etc. with batting cages.
- Rebuild or reconfigure existing fields to be more efficient.

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- None

## **WOOD RIVER LACROSSE**

October 5, 2023

### Attendees:

Wood River Lacrosse

BCRD

GGLO

### **WHAT CURRENTLY WORKS FOR YOU?**

- Combined program, 300+ kids, growing each year with good momentum, excitement and energy.
- When access to natural grass fields, things work well.

### **WHAT IS NOT CURRENTLY SERVING YOUR NEEDS AND WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON YOUR PARTICIPANTS?**

- Lacrosse is a spring sport with a short season, need indoor facilities to meet field space needs. Fields haven't been melting off quickly enough.
- Lacking capacity, need fields for 2-3 practices per week. Current available facilities are only 25% of what is needed.
- For indoor space, protection is needed as a small rubber ball is moving 50+ MPH. Also need high quality surface with padding to avoid athlete injuries. A hard gym floor is hard on athletes' bodies.

### **OVER THE NEXT 10-15 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CLUB SPORT?**

- Need a facility to host a tournament. Every spring 200 Wood River Valley kids have to go 2-4 hours in any direction (Jackson Hole, SLC, Boise). No facility available to host both boys and girls in the same spot, starting in April. On the road every weekend for 7 weeks straight. Same for high school for 65 students. Season is March, April, May.
- Outdoor synthetic turf facility that could be plowed and cleared (similar to Park City).
- Program Needs: Indoor synthetic turf facility = ½ of a field (35 yds x 60 yds). Outdoor = 3 Turf Fields side-by-side (70 yds by 120 yds) with 30 yds between, access March, April, May.
- Anticipate numbers to double every 3-5 years overall. Park City is at 900 kids in their junior program after explosive growth of the sport on the west coast.

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- Ski towns seem to have a larger lacrosse contingent, seeing athletes compete at a higher level.
- Potential case studies:
  - Sports Complex Quinn's Junction in Park City, UT
  - Jackson Hole Facilities – good cushioning, but rubber pellets are toxic and have issues
  - Driggs Pickleball Courts, Pools, RV Park, Camping
- 60% of their lacrosse female athletes are participating in 2-3 sports per season.
- Capacity: whatever can be provided will likely be overbooked as soon as it is open as there is such a need.
- Fundraising: fatigue in the community for travel – program is growing and gaining momentum, but limited ability for home games. Currently driving to Twin Falls weekly in the Spring just for a practice. Had to practice in a horse pasture for two weeks one Spring. An indoor and outdoor facility would allow for better competition, better athletes.
- Support Services: Hotels, RV Parks, Food & Beverage (Food Trucks, etc.). Jamborees and tournaments will draw large crowds of people. Concessions even if small in the indoor facility.
- Life cycle cost of synthetic turf is lower than natural grass, and more safe for the health of athletes long term.
- Can't think of another ski town that doesn't have synthetic turf fields for these types of events.
- Ready to help with fundraising efforts.

## **IDAHO SURF SOCCER CLUB**

October 17, 2023

### Attendees:

Idaho SURF Soccer Club

BCRD

GGLO

### **WHAT CURRENTLY WORKS FOR YOU?**

- The club started 3 years ago and is growing as a competitive sport, year-round.
- They currently rent O'Donnell Park in Bellevue for practice with no major competition for outdoor space.

### **WHAT IS NOT CURRENTLY SERVING YOUR NEEDS AND WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON YOUR PARTICIPANTS?**

- O'Donnell Park is not in the best condition. Members have contributed their own time and money to convert the field from baseball to soccer. The City of Bellevue mows the grass once a week, sometimes creating inconsistent mow heights. Also, the ground surface is uneven with holes. All of this causes injuries to the players.
- They have received donated goals that they rotate (2-3 times/month) to minimize wear on the field. These goals are very heavy and difficult to move.
- Since it is a year-round sport, they have to utilize Alturas Elementary School mid-late October to June. Here, they compete with the school district activities and other groups. This causes them to practice in Idaho Falls every other Saturday.

### **OVER THE NEXT 10-15 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CLUB SPORT?**

- Ideally, they would like an indoor place to rent out and practice with 1-2 full size fields. Each field can be divided into 4 smaller fields.
- Quality (e.g., well maintained) outdoor fields
- References Hansen Sports Complex in Logan, Utah and the Salt Lake Academy in Herriman, UT

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- BCRD will be hosting a Hispanic focus group meeting to better understand what is important.
- An integrated recreation facility for non-competitive sports would be great for the community.
  - Indoor space would include a 9v9 soccer field with plexiglass walls (similar to hockey) for spectators, a picnic area, concessions, arcade, volleyball, basketball, and plyometric training area.
  - Outside space would include well-maintained open fields as well as other attractions such as a pump track, walking path, pavilion, and/or water park/splash pad.
  - These spaces could be available for rent and integrated with competitive soccer.

# HISPANIC COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW

## SUMMARY

- Interview conducted 11.07.2023
- Attendees:
  1. BCRD
  2. Hispanic community leaders

## WHAT SPORTS FIELDS, COURTS AND PARKS CURRENTLY WORK FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?

### *¿QUÉ CAMPOS DEPORTIVOS, CANCHAS Y PARQUES FUNCIONAN ACTUALMENTE PARA USTED Y SU FAMILIA?*

- Try to come to BCRD but schedule doesn't work for them
- Founder's Field is good, but needs better restrooms and more bleachers
- Keiffer park is in great condition but needs more parking, more sitting spaces, bigger pavilion, bleachers, and new basketball nets
- No winter activities; we need better winter sports facilities: (indoor) soccer, volleyball
  - Need more indoor soccer
    - Currently using the high school football field
  - Need a place where they can have multiple activities
  - Not all kids want to ski or snowboard in the winter and BCRD tends to be very packed and closes early
  - During the winter they can't count on enough space for adults and kids to have somewhere to have an extra curriculum
  - We need adequate information (especially in Spanish); accessibility to understand the "rules" for services
    - Taking into consideration adults and also other winter sports
- Would like to see something similar to the YMCA but in Hailey due to winter roads making it hard for Hailey and Bellevue residents to get to Ketchum
  - Swimming lessons for winter (accessible to Hailey and Bellevue residents)
  - Daycare is important to be included
  - Making facility accessible and with bigger spaces due to our rapidly growing community
  - Want to see more dancing classes

## HAVE YOU LOOKED INTO BUYING SOMETHING THAT IS LOCAL IN HAILEY AND BELLEVUE?

### *¿HA PENSADO EN COMPRAR ALGO LOCAL EN HAILEY Y BELLEVUE?*

- Would like a large facility, half of which could also be used for community events
  - Spoke about land behind the football field at Wood River High School
  - Love the idea of doing it in between Hailey and Bellevue
  - Need a big multi-functional building for indoor sports, events, etc.
  - Make the space accessible (in terms of language and cost)
  - Many are going to Twin Falls, Utah, etc. for winter sports that are accessible for their kids

## WHAT IS THE YOUTH SEEING IS NEEDED?

### *¿QUÉ ES LO QUE LOS JÓVENES VEN QUE SE NECESITA?*

- Bigger facility for students to be able to play different sports
- Making sport programs more accessible for teens who work
  - It's a lot for them to have to go to practice on a daily basis
- More gym space to work out
- A local and bigger facility like the YMCA would bring jobs, especially for teens

- Many students are looking for jobs that work with the school and sports schedule
- Rooms for youth to use to practice (music, sports, etc.)

**WHAT DO THE FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND SPECTATORS NEED TO ALSO USE THIS SPACE?**

*¿QUÉ NECESITAN LAS FAMILIAS, AMIGOS Y ESPECTADORES PARA UTILIZAR TAMBIÉN ESTE ESPACIO?*

- Bleachers for parents to watch their kids
- Having classrooms in the facility in order to bring English classes, etc.
- Space for students to study
  - With computers, pods
- Accessible daycare options
  - Many parents work late so hours of daycare and facility need to be more accessible in the afternoon
- Want to see Zumba classes, yoga, etc. more accessible (in terms of times and number of attendants)

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE FOR THE SPACE FOR OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES?**

*¿QUÉ QUIERES VER PARA EL ESPACIO PARA ACTIVIDADES AL AIRE LIBRE?*

- Bathrooms
- Baseball/softball
- Tennis
- Soccer
- Sports complex
- A little bit of everything due to the needs of our growing population but all within the same area so we don't have to drive to Ketchum in the winter

**ANY OTHER COMMENTS?**

*¿ALGÚN OTRO COMENTARIO?*

- The YMCA feels targeted for Ketchum and Sun Valley residents
- Middle school students are hanging out at Albertsons
  - Need somewhere to hang out and do activities
  - Want to see programs as well for them
- Suggestion: interview youth to get a better understanding of youth needs
- Supporting the community would keep people from going to Twin Falls, Boise, Utah, etc. for kids sports
- Year-round is really important as is keeping what is already existing (in terms of space and program)
- Provide a space for soccer for adults, especially in the winter
  - With reasonable pricing
  - Gravity is charging \$100/hour for use of their space which causes them to cut back on activities in the winter

# BCRD STAFF INTERVIEW

## SUMMARY

- Interview conducted 11.02.2023
- Attendees:
  1. BCRD
  2. GGLO
  3. Lyon Landscape Architects

## OPEN DISCUSSION:

- BCRD will likely outgrow the Community Campus in the next 3-5 years. Things to consider in the new space include:
  - Flexibility with staff volumes
  - Security
  - Wellness programs
  - BCRD branding
  - Indoor/outdoor integration
- Blaine County is unique in the region as a resort community without an outdoor tournament and recreational facility.
- BCRD confirmed the need for a facility for indoor and outdoor activities. Things to consider in this complex include:
  - Expanding capacity to offer programs during peak demand 4:00 - 8:00 pm
  - Tournaments
  - Lighting (indoor and outdoor, as allowed)
  - Mix of synthetic and natural turf fields
  - Parking
  - Camping
  - Central location like Flying Hat Ranch
  - Aquatic Center
  - Serve all groups including recreation-club sports, youth-seniors, Hispanic, general public, etc.
  - Community engagement
  - Accessibility
  - Look to Jackson, WY and Park City, UT for facility design
- Opportunities
  - Partner with Cities, School District/Board, County, YMCA, Community School, etc.
  - Non-profits: Renting space outside current hours of operation
  - Local company sponsorship and donors
  - Grants
- Hockey is a growing sport in the community with 400+ participants, almost year-round.
- BCRD would like to develop an immediate/short-term, transitional/interim, and final plan.
- Lacrosse is moving to a year-round schedule with fall practice at Sagewillow.

# EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES INVENTORY

## SUMMARY

- Inventory taken during September and October, 2023
- Facilities Inventoried:
  - Old Cutters Park
  - Sunbeam Park
  - Hop Porter Park
  - Lions Park
  - Foxmoor Park
  - Heagle Park
  - Roberta McKercher Park
  - Deerfield Park
  - Kiwanis Park
  - Keefer Park
  - Alturas Elementary School
  - Founders Field
  - Wood River Middle School
  - Wood River High School
  - Nelson Fields
  - Bellevue Elementary School
  - Carey Public School
  - Atkinson Park
  - Rotary Park
  - Bellevue Memorial Day Park
  - O'Donnell Park
  - Festival Meadows
  - Sagewillow Athletic Center
  - Rodeo Grounds
  - County Fairgrounds & Rodeo
  - Carey West Park



## Existing Amenities

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- (1) Soccer Field
- Restroom
- Pavilion / Picnic Structure
- Play Equipment
- Parking

## Notes

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- Picnic Structure is often rented for family and group celebrations and events
- Youth soccer practice and play on weekdays and weekends
- Direct access to Hangman Gulch Trails



## Existing Amenities

- (1) Soccer Field – small
- Play Equipment
- Parking

## Notes

- Abuts Curtis Park to the west
- Bike Path can connect Sunbeam and Curtis parks to the Wood River Trail



## Existing Amenities

---

- Open Field (small)
- Restrooms
- (1) Volleyball
- Parking
- Pavilion / Picnic Shelter
- Significant Wood Play Structure & Swings

## Notes

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- Summer event stage for scheduled Thursday evening concerts, attended by several hundred people
- Food trucks serve the various events
- Currently being studied as an event park with strong connections to Lions Park



Existing Amenities

---

- (1) Baseball/Softball
- Play Equipment
- Parking

Notes

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- The baseball field and large parking area to the north sit on an old landfill
- Current study being done, that Lions Park, like Hop Porter Park, serve as an event park. The 2 parks being physically connected with a pedestrian promenade
- This park provides direct access to Draper Preserve and the Big Wood River
- The Land Trust has shown interest in the park to naturalize its shoreline



Existing Amenities

- Open Field for small soccer
- Play Equipment
- Picnic Table and shade trees
- Porta-Potty

Notes

- May consider allowing north and west areas of lawn to grow long, reducing mowings and water use



Existing Amenities

---

- Open Field (small)
- (2) Tennis / Pickleball
- Pavilion / Picnic Shelter
- Restrooms
- Access to Big Wood River
- Added Parking – 2023

Notes

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- Nice neighborhood park with access to the Big Wood River. The park has been prone to spring flooding
- No sports fields, but small soccer field could be striped

# ROBERTA MCKERCHER PARK

Hailey



## Existing Amenities

- Large open grass field – often used for soccer
- Restrooms
- RV Dump station

## Notes

- This park is used as a Community Events park: Saturday Farmers Market, Trailing of the Sheep, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival, etc



## Existing Amenities

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- Play Equipment
- Beautiful Trees
- Interesting and space defining berms

## Notes

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- A unique and beautiful neighborhood park.
- A small soccer or T-Ball field would fit, but might compromise the peacefulness of the park



Existing Amenities

- (1) Soccer - small
- (1) Basketball
- (2) Grass Volleyball
- Play Equipment
- Parking
- Pavilion / Picnic Shelter
- Restroom / Porta-Potty

Notes

- A buffer is planned on the west side (Hwy 75 side) of the park. It will likely include trees and fencing. Design will allow 'see-through' areas from bike path and highway.
- It may be desirable to provide access to the park from the bike path
- City of Hailey has been awarded 2 grants. One for forming the above mentioned buffer, the other to provide shade trees adjacent to the play equipment



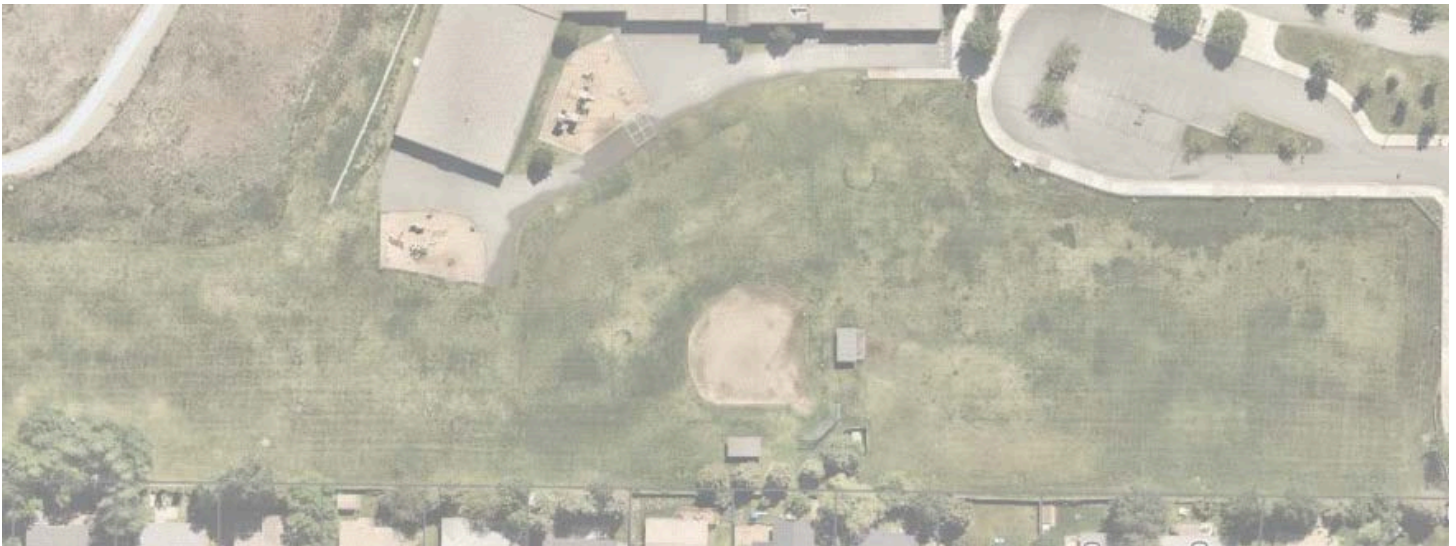
## Existing Amenities

- (1) Soccer
- (1) Fenced Baseball
- (2) Basketball
- Horseshoe Pits
- Disc Golf
- Parking
- Pavilion / Picnic Shelter
- Play Equipment
- Restroom by Play Equipment

## Notes

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- 2023 Soccer Field turf renovated. Open for Use 2024
- Soil profile of soccer field may drain too well, allowing turf to dry up and increase compaction, preventing turf from keeping healthy
- Expanded recreation activities may be desirable here, such as pickleball, more basketball, etc
- Opportunities to expand in the elongated south portion



## Existing Amenities

---

- (1) Soccer
- (1) Soccer - small
- (1) Softball
- Porta-Potty
- Play Equipment
- Parking

## Notes

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- The entire grass fields have an undulating surface, including a very low depression for a storm water catch basin. If regraded, the area would better accommodate the numerous activities and perhaps provide additional playable space

# FOUNDERS FIELD

Hailey



## Existing Amenities

- (1) Soccer
- (1) Baseball
- (1) Softball
- Soccer practice field at north end
- Open Field
- Parking

## Notes

- Design West, of Boise, is studying field layout options including new ADA restrooms
- Turf is very healthy



## Existing Amenities

---

- (1) Soccer – multiple sizes
- (2) Baseball / Softball
- (2) Basketball
- (2) Tennis
- (1) 4 lane Track with soccer / football field
- Parking

## Notes

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- 2 Tennis Courts need repair / resurfacing. Currently not budgeted
- 4 lane Track needs resurfacing. Currently not budgeted
- Large field on the west accommodates football, soccer, softball and baseball
- Fields heavily used by the school and community
- The softball and baseball field overlay with the soccer fields



Existing Amenities

- (1) Soccer – multiple sizes
- (2) Practice Fields, football and soccer fields
- (6) Tennis
- (1) Track and field with lights for soccer/football / lacrosse
- Parking
- Restroom

Notes

- Field Maintenance by Clearwater Landscaping. Very well done and maintained
- Tennis Courts – Currently scheduled for resurfacing Summer 2024
- Track resurfaced 2023
- Considering relocating track & field events: long jump, discus and shot put
- Small area of poor drainage in practice football field from previous construction staging compacting soil
- WISH LIST: Field House for Spring Sports due to weather and field conditions
- FUTURE: BCSD was deeded 11 acres to the north for future sports fields
- There is an interest in replacing grass within the track with synthetic turf



## Existing Amenities

- Small Soccer – Multiple
- (2) Baseball / Softball
- Softball
- (2) Half Court basketball
- Play Equipment
- Parking
- Restrooms

## Notes

- Hailey Elementary School will be replaced with a new school in the future. This will affect the fields during construction
- A 'Clover Leaf' design of the 3 softball / baseball fields may be most efficient

# HAILEY RODEO GROUNDS

Hailey



## Existing Amenities

- Stadium Seating
- Restrooms
- Lighting
- Ice Rink in the Winter
- Parking
- Skate Park
- Adjacent to Champion Indoor Ice Rink

## Notes

- The rodeo grounds can accommodate other uses and activities, such as sports fields
- This area offers several forms of recreation: Champion Indoor Ice Rink, Skate Park, Summer Rodeo (also winter outdoor ice rink), and Nelson Field which has numerous fields for baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse.
- Developers have approached the City of Hailey about expanded development options



Existing Amenities

---

- Soccer
- (1) Softball
- Large Play Equipment Area

Notes

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- Small soccer field would fit in well
- As with other schools, very nice quality maintained grass



Existing Amenities

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- Open Lawn Area
- (2) Fenced Basketball
- Large Picnic Shelter
- Elevated Stage
- Restroom / Porta Potty
- Play Equipment

Notes

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- Although not used formally for soccer, a small field could be striped in the open lawn area
- Contains beautiful 'Heritage' trees



## Existing Amenities

- (3) Soccer – multiple sizes
- (1) Baseball / Softball (290' to R & L field fences)
- Small Play Structure w/ benches & picnic tables
- Pavilion with Concession?
- Parking
- Porta Potty

## Notes

- Healthy turf with high percentage of broadleaf weeds.
- Backstop and small bleachers at field height, then slopes somewhat steeply down to road. Provides odd transition
- Several different soccer goal types and sizes, some rusted



Existing Amenities

- Soccer Field (Christina Ice Rink)
- Soccer Field
- Baseball Field (2)
- Softball Field
- Much of Field only available after School Day

- Pavilion
- Spray Park
- Tennis Court (4)
- Parking

Owned by BCSD  
 Maintained by Ketchum

City of Ketchum owned  
 and maintained

Notes

- Discussion about future addition to the school to replace portables and growing needs. This will likely impact parking and/or fields
- All fields owned by BCSD. Improvements, operations and maintenance done by City of Ketchum (MOU)
- Splash Pool and Pump Track (to the south) owned by BCSD, operated by City of Ketchum
- Outdoor Ice Rink has all new irrigation heads replaced in 2022. It serves as a soccer field April – October
- Baseball Field (north end) has not been used for 10+ years. There is interest in removing the skinned infield and making it all soccer
- All irrigation systems need upgrading (except the ice rink field)



## Existing Amenities

---

- Open Field (small)
- Play Area
- Pavilion
- Restrooms
- Parking

## Notes

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- Too small for soccer and not desired for active play uses by the City of Ketchum
- Often used as a wedding venue, Jazz in the Park and other activities



## Existing Amenities

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- Open Field

## Notes

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- Current programming by the City of Sun Valley does not include active playfield uses



## Existing Amenities

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- (3) Full-size Soccer
- Restrooms / Storage
- Parking

## Notes

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- Very well laid out and maintained grass soccer fields
- All Fields in the Wood River Valley should be so good
- 2 Lower Fields (1 with fence by south goal)
- 1 Upper Field beyond Sagewillow Campus Airbarn / bus and storage areas



## Existing Amenities

---

- (1) Stadium with Lights (football)
- (1) Open Field for K-6
- (1) Practice Field adjacent to track
- (1) Tennis
- (2) Basketball – (2 half courts, 4 single courts)

## Notes

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- Track is being redone. New asphalt recently installed
- Hard surface tennis courts need renovation



## Existing Amenities

- Open Lawn Area
- Restrooms
- Covered Structures
- Parking

## Notes

- Fairgrounds are used for Car Shows, Renaissance Fair and Blaine County Fair, or about 3 weeks out of the year
- The large grassy open area of the Fairgrounds may be used for organized sports. It will likely require a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCRD and Blaine County
- The rodeo grounds are not to be considered as a potential area for sports fields.



## Existing Amenities

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- (1) Optimist Football Practice
- (3) Volleyball
- (2) Backstops
- (1) Pavilion / Picnic Shelter
- Play Equipment
- (1) Basketball

## Notes

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- This field is used for youth football practice, but could be used for soccer if there is a demand.
- City Mayor would like to add a baseball field
- A perimeter walking path is desired, and possibly connect with Bell Mountain
- Interest in a Master Plan for the nearly 4 acres
- Irrigation works. Well water is drawn from the adjacent canal. Turf is very healthy
- Park is under-utilized (as per Mayor Sara Mecham)
- The road shown on the bottom of the photo has been vacated, allowing for parking and better expanded use of the field
- Current baseball / softball fields need new backstops and field delineation and renovation if they are to be used.

# RECOMMENDED EXISTING FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Through the facility assessments performed for this study, the following improvements were identified to help better serve the community’s recreational needs. These improvements range in scale and complexity from adding striping or replacing nets to renovating facilities and regrading terrain.

Jurisdiction	Facility	Improvements
Bellevue	Bellevue Memorial Day Park	Re-stripe for lacrosse
Bellevue	O’Donnell Park	Re-stripe for lacrosse
Carey	Carey Public School	Stripe for other uses
Carey	Carey West Park	Renovate turf, completely rebuild baseball/softball field, add a perimeter walking path.
Carey	County Fairgrounds	Pursue agreement to use grassy field for recreational uses
Hailey	Foxmoor Park	Stripe for small soccer field
Hailey	Alturas Elementary School	Renovate and regrade for larger play fields
Hailey	Lion’s Park	Regrade for safer playing surface, phase out use in 2-5 years
Hailey	Keefer Park	Add bleachers and pavilion space, replace basketball nets



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