

**BOISE CITY RIDGE TO RIVERS SECOND QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING**  
**BOISE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021**  
**8:30 A.M.**

The Ridge to Rivers Partnership met virtually on January 19, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Partners Present: Doug Holloway and Sara Arkle (Boise Parks and Recreation); Brent Ralston and David Draheim, (Bureau of Land Management); Scott Koberg (Ada County); Brad Lowe and Krista Biorn (Idaho Department of Fish and Game); Stephaney Kerley and Everardo Santillan (Boise National Forest Service); David Gordon (Ridge to Rivers); Chloe Sallabanks (Clerk)

Others Present: None

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**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

**III. IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS**

**A. FY 2021 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review**

The budget was similar to last fiscal year. Some additional city funds purchased a mini excavator, which will assist with trail maintenance, and a pressure washer to assist in outhouse cleanings. The Hillside to Hollow Trailhead project was under construction and anticipated to be completed early-spring. Ridge to Rivers donations were coming in steadily.

No comments were made from the partners.

**B. 2020 Trail Maintenance/Project Review**

Trail maintenance and projects completed in 2020 were reviewed, which included fencing work on Trail #4, stream crossing improvements in Dry Creek, crib walls along Dry Creek, Shingle Creek, Stack Rock and Around the Mountain trails, and retaining wall construction on Polecat trails. More repairs were becoming necessary due to irresponsible use of the trails.

There was public interest in constructing new trails, which the partnership hoped to do some of in the coming year. An upcoming survey would seek public input on some opportunities.

**C. 2020 Effects to Trails from COVID-Related Increase in Use**

Trail use had increased drastically during the COVID-19 pandemic. Trails were seeing high volumes of damage, widening, muddy use and vegetation loss. There were many new users visiting the trails, so the city was focused on winter-use education. Trailheads were often overflowing during the day, which was not typical for winter months.

The Partnership discussed ways to improve responsibility among trail users, especially when volunteers were not permitted due to the virus.

**D. Winter Projects**

Steel steps had been added to a couple places in Camel's Back Reserve over the last few years, and the city was now fabricating additional steps to be installed on a trail near the chute.

Gates were installed at both access points of Seaman's Gulch. Cartwright and Ridge Crest trailheads were scheduled to also have gates installed. The gates would be pulled down and stored during summertime, as they are intended to slow muddy trail use.

The chain-link fencing around the Military Reserve Archery Range would be replaced with post-and-rail fencing.

A public meeting was scheduled for 6 p.m. that evening (Jan. 19, 2021) which would overview 'Busy Trails in Boise's Foothills – Setting the Stage for Changing with the Times.' Following the meeting, the foothills use survey would be sent out.

**E. UXO Survey**

The unexploded ordnance survey was completed, and nothing was found.

**F. E-Bike Management**

"No E-Bike Use" signage was repeatedly taken down, so crews continued to replace the regulatory signs. The Partnership discussed e-bike regulation and enforcement options, as the e-bike policy remained the same.

**G. User Survey**

The Partnership discussed its goals for the user survey that would be initiated following the Jan. 19 public meeting.

**H. Donation Levels**

Ridge to Rivers was seeing an increase of donations in memorial of people, some of which requested trails to be named after someone or dedicated with a plaque. Boise Parks and Recreation had an existing memorial policy, which were typically handled in-house by the department. Requests to name a facility, park or trail after somebody was a bit more logistically challenging, and the partners discussed revamping a memorial/naming policy to fit the Ridge to Rivers system.

**I. Special Use Guidelines**

There was discussion whether there should be a cap on virtual events in the foothills. The Partnership had resolved not to cap events at this time, and the Special Use Guidelines were ready to be finalized.

**J. R2R Partner Updates**

**Ada County**

No additional trails were planned for the Red Hawk Reserve; the existing Landslide Loop was closed December-March for wildlife conservation.

Two new Ada County Commissioners were elected, and the county was working on orienting the new leadership.

**Idaho Department of Fish and Game**

Highland Valley Road would be graded to improve roughness. The road going west from the archery range would be done by a dozer.

There was a potential trail connection in the Harris Ranch area. Should the concept come to fruition, Boise City would work with Fish and Game on wildlife needs.

**Boise City**

Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation awarded a grant of \$45,302 to the City of Boise for development of the Hawkins Range Reserve loop. The Bureau of Land Management had approved for the city to move forward on design and construction of the trail, while an appeal was reviewed by federal agencies.

The city was still in Stage 2 of its COVID-19 reopening phase, which did not allow for volunteers.

City social media channels continued to post daily trail updates and winter trail use reminders and encouraged the partners to do the same on their respective pages.

Cartwright Ridge Trail, formerly managed by Land Trust of the Treasure Valley, was in an unsustainable location along the ridge. The city was looking to reroute some parts of the trail, and the old route would go unmanaged.

**Bureau of Land Management**

The Bureau was working through appeal and funding processes for the aforementioned Hawkins Range Reserve loop construction.

Once the new presidential administration was in place, the Resource Management Plan would be in queue to be signed.

Race to Robie Creek was planning to hold a virtual event in 2021, and the Bureau was working through a potential permitting process. The Partnership discussed potentially requiring a permit for virtual events.

**Boise National Forest Service**

There were no updates.

V. **IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Partnership, the meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.