BOISE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
4:00 P.M.

Location:
Maryanne Jordan Council Chambers • Boise City Hall
150 N. Capitol Boulevard

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ATTENDANCE

III. CONSENT AGENDA

*A. Beer/Wine Sales and Serving Permits – 2020 Parks Special Events
   1. Matador Cinco de Mayo
   2. Run for Dunn
   3. Music on the Water
   4. Boise Pridefest
   5. World Village Festival
   6. 4th of July Fireworks Celebration
   7. Twilight Criterion
   8. Tuba Palooza
   9. Boise Goathead Fest
   10. Agri Beef BBQ Battle Festival
   11. Latino Fest
   12. Art in the Park
   13. Boise River Enhancement Biathlon
   14. Petroliana Boise Motorcycle Show
   15. Hyde Park Street Fair
   16. Zamzow’s K9 Frisbee Fest
   17. Prost! Oktoberfest
   18. See Spot Walk
   19. YMCA Race for Steaks
   20. City of Trees Marathon
   21. Grilled Cheese and Beer Festival
   22. Zeitgeist Marathon
   23. Idaho Potato Drop

*B. Group Sports Reservation and License Agreements
   1. East Boise Youth Baseball and Softball, Inc.
   2. North Boise Little League, Inc.
   4. South Boise Little League, Inc.
   5. West Boise Little League, Inc.
*C. Heritage Fund Request – Willow Lane Athletic Complex Softball Fields

*D. License Agreement – Gem State Disc Golfers at Ann Morrison Park

*E. Native Vegetation Restoration Project – Willow Lane Park

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

*A. Minutes – January 23, 2020

B. Sustainability Specialist – Pesticide Reduction Pilot Program

*C. Department Policy – Citizen Engagement Requests

*D. Extension Request – Williams Park Dog Off-Leash Program – Public Hearing

*E. Executive Session: 1) Pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(c) to acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency, and Idaho Code §74-206(f) to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**
TO: Jon Ruzicka, President, Boise City Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Doug Holloway, Director
DATE: 02/14/2020
RE: February 20, 2020 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Please find enclosed the descriptive information supporting your agenda topics for this meeting. The meeting is anticipated to last one hour and will take place in the Maryanne Jordan Council Chambers at City Hall.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. BEER/WINE SALES AND SERVING PERMITS – 2020 PARKS SPECIAL EVENTS – Requested by Summer Altieri, Parks Special Event Coordinator (Item III.A. on the agenda)

Multiple special events in Boise parks sell beer and/or wine during their function. These special events pay a $225 permit fee, in addition to 12% of gross beer/wine sales over $2,000, to the Parks and Recreation Department, upon Commission approval of their sales permits.

The following events have requested a Beer/Wine Sales and Serving Permit at their 2020 event:

1. Matador Cinco de Mayo – May 5, 2020 – 8th Street
   This second annual event downtown between Freak Alley and Bannock Ave will feature food, alcoholic beverages, and entertainment for a Cinco de Mayo street party. The event is hosted by the Matador restaurant. A good faith estimate for the event is 500 people.

2. Run for Dunn – May 31, 2020 – Julia Davis Park
   This is the eighth year this annual event will take place in Julia Davis Park. It serves as a benefit fun run that relates to the Idaho Community Foundation, SOLS Survivors Melanoma, and Make-a-Wish Foundation's Idaho Chapter. The event is a 3.75-mile run/walk that will provide food and alcohol at the end of the run at no charge to the participants. The beer garden will be contained within the Boise Pavilion at Julia Davis Park. A good faith estimate for the event is 500 participants.

   This is the fourth year for the event, which will take place in conjunction with the Boise Women’s Classic run. This event benefits Make-a-Wish Foundation’s Idaho Chapter. The two-day event includes a fun run, musical guests, food vendors, a beer garden, and family-friendly activities such as kids’ yoga, face painting, and games. The beer garden...
will be contained within the Central Pavilion at Esther Simplot Park. A good faith estimate for the event is 500 people each day.

4. **Boise Pridefest** – June 18 & 19, 2020 – Cecil D. Andrus Park  
For over 30 years, this event has celebrated pride and diversity in Idaho. The event will have educational and developmental activities that showcase the history, accomplishments, and talents of the LGBTQA community. The event will include a parade, live and recorded music, food, vendors, and dancing. The beer garden will be in the confines of Cecil D. Andrus Park. A good faith estimate for the event is 10,000 participants over the weekend.

This is the sixth year for this event coordinated by Global Lounge. World Village serves as a multi-ethnic cultural event and will showcase music, food, and vendors. The beer garden will exist within the confines of Cecil D. Andrus Park. This three-day event will be held Friday through Sunday. A good faith estimate for the event is 500 people each day.

The City of Boise will host the annual fireworks show in Ann Morrison Park on Independence Day. This family-friendly event will include a beer garden, food vendors, and recorded music. A good faith estimate for the event is 30,000 people.

7. **Twilight Criterion** – July 11, 2020 – Cecil D. Andrus Park  
The ASWD Twilight Criterion celebrates its 34th year of racing through the streets of Downtown Boise. This year, the start and finish line return to Jefferson St in front of the Idaho Statehouse. The event is produced by George’s Cycles and the Downtown Boise Association. The beer garden will be within the confines of Cecil D. Andrus Park. A good faith estimate for downtown is 15,000 people.

This classic summertime event is returning to the Boise River this year. An organized river float from Barber Park to Ann Morrison Park will take place, commencing in a celebration across from the river raft take-out in Ann Morrison with live music, food vendors and a beer garden. The estimated attendance for the event is 1,000 people.

9. **Boise Goathead Fest** – August 1, 2020 – Cecil D. Andrus Park  
Returning for its third year, Boise Goathead Fest is a community celebration of pedal-power and goathead elimination. A bicycle parade through downtown ends at a celebration in Cecil D. Andrus Park with music, vendors, educational materials, and family-friendly activities. The beer garden will be within the confines of Cecil D. Andrus Park. A good faith estimate for the event is 4,000 people.

10. **Agri Beef BBQ Battle Festival** – September 4 & 5, 2020 – Julia Davis Park  
This first-time event, put on by Agri Beef, will host a variety of barbecue battles throughout the weekend. The festival will have family-friendly activities throughout the east end of the park and live music, with the beer/wine garden being contained to the Boise Pavilion area. A good faith estimate for the event is 2,000 people.

11. **Latino Fest** – September 5, 2020 – Cecil D. Andrus Park  
This sixth annual event celebrates Latin culture will all things music, dance, food, workshops and art. The event, put on by the Consulate of Mexico & Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, will have food trucks, live music, and dance performances. The beer garden will be
contained within the confines of Cecil D. Andrus Park. A good faith estimate is 5,000 people.

12. **Art in the Park** – September 11-13, 2020 – Julia Davis Park
This event hosted by the Boise Art Museum represents over 250 artists and 40 food vendors. This is the 63rd year that the annual event will be held in Julia Davis Park at the Gene Harris Bandshell, Art Museum Sculpture Garden, and Rotary Mall Road areas. The beer garden will be confined within the Art Museum Sculpture Garden gated area. A good faith estimate over the three-day event is 200,000 people.

This is an annual event that takes place at Esther Simplot Park Central Pavilion and Quinn’s Pond. This is hosted by the Boise River Enhancement Network and is a family-friendly biathlon for all ages. They will have a PA system and vendors and will serve beer at the event. The beer garden will be located at the Central Pavilion of Esther Simplot Park. A good faith estimate for the event is 200 people.

14. **Petroliana Boise Motorcycle Show** – September 13, 2020 – Veterans Memorial Park
This will be the seventh annual motorcycle show, hosted by Petroliana Boise. The event includes live music, food vendors, raffle giveaways, and a beer/wine garden. The beer garden is a fenced-off area near the park’s picnic area. A good faith estimate for the event is 400 people.

15. **Hyde Park Street Fair** – September 18-20, 2020 – Camel’s Back Park
This event is a fundraising event, benefiting the North End Neighborhood Association. This is the 40th year the event will be held. The Hyde Park Street Fair is designed to celebrate the diversity and quality of life in Boise’s North End. The event includes art, crafts, and food vendors. The two beer gardens are both gated, with security at each entrance/exit point. A good faith estimate over the three-day event is 30,000 people.

Sponsored by Zamzows with help from KNIN Fox 9 Television and the Idaho Humane Society, this event is a dog frisbee-catching contest and is open to the public. This event is in its 28th year, with 2020 being the fourth year to sell alcohol. The event is held in Ann Morrison Park and provides the public with food vendors and a beer garden. The beer garden will be confined to the northwest corner of Ann Morrison Park. A good faith estimate for the event is 300 people.

17. **Prost! Oktoberfest** – October 2 & 3, 2020 – 8th Street
This annual event celebrating Oktoberfest takes place outside of Prost bar and grill on 8th Street. The event has live music, food vendors, and a beer garden. Beer sales are sectioned off with security ensuring no alcohol leaves the event parameters. A good faith estimate for the event is 500 people.

18. **See Spot Walk** – October 3, 2020 – Julia Davis Park
The event, sponsored by the Idaho Humane Society, was created to be a dog festival and walk for the community through Julia Davis Park. There will be food vendors and a beer garden; the beer garden will be in the confines of the special event near the Rotary Mall Road. A good faith estimate for the event is 3,000 people.

19. **YMCA Race for Steaks** – October TBD, 2020 – Julia Davis Park
This will be the seventh year that YMCA has put on the Race for the Steaks event. Race for Steaks is a late afternoon 5K and 10K fun run that will be held in Julia Davis Park at the Agriculture Pavilion and along the Boise River Greenbelt. This is the fifth year they will sell alcohol at this event. There will be music and food at the finish line of the event and all participants will be provided a steak at the end of the run. A good faith estimate for the event is 600 people.

20. **City of Trees Marathon** – October TBD, 2020 – Parkcenter Park  
This is an annual event hosted by the City of Trees Marathon Association begins at Parkcenter Park. This marathon distance running/walking event utilizes Parkcenter Pond, the Greenbelt, and various streets throughout Boise. They will have recorded music, vendors, and a beer garden. The beer garden will be in the event area of Parkcenter Park. A good faith estimate for the event is 700 people.

21. **Grilled Cheese and Beer Festival** – October TBD, 2020 – Cecil D. Andrus Park  
Held in Downtown Boise, this will be the second year for the popular grilled cheese festival. The event breaks into two sessions for ticket holders to sample food and beer/wine pairings. The beer garden will be within the confines of Cecil D. Andrus Park. A good faith estimate for the event is 900 people.

22. **Zeitgeist Marathon** – November 7, 2020 – Optimist Youth Sports Complex  
This annual half marathon fun run takes places throughout the sports complex along Hill Road. Marathoners celebrate with a food vendor and beer/wine service at the finish line. The beer garden is confined to the finish-line space. A good faith estimate for the event is 650 people.

23. **Idaho Potato Drop** – December 31, 2020 – Cecil D. Andrus Park  
This is the fifth year this event will be at Cecil D. Andrus Park and is the sixth year that the event is held in Boise City. It is hosted by The Idaho New Year’s Commission. There are two stages with musical performances, various food vendors, fireworks, a beer garden, and a potato drop in front of the footsteps of the Idaho State Capitol building. The beer garden will be located on the street and within Cecil D. Andrus Park. A good faith estimate for the event is 10,000 people.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The department recommends that the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission approve the beer/wine sales and serving permits for the 23 parks special events listed.

**B. GROUP SPORTS RESERVATION AND LICENSE AGREEMENTS** – Requested by Ken Reeves, Special Services Manager *(Item III.B. on the agenda)*

Boise Parks and Recreation engages in group sports agreements with local sports agencies to permit the organizations to use city facilities for their programs between March and December.

The following Group Sports Reservation and License Agreements have a term of Mar. 1, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2020:

1. East Boise Youth Baseball and Softball, Inc. *(Exhibit A.1.)*
2. North Boise Little League, Inc. *(Exhibit A.2.)*
3. Northwest Ada Little League, Inc. *(Exhibit A.3.)*
4. South Boise Little League, Inc. *(Exhibit A.4.)*
5. West Boise Little League, Inc. *(Exhibit A.5.)*
RECOMMENDATION: The department requests that the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission recommend approval of the five (5) submitted Group Sports Reservation and License Agreements, to Boise City Council.

C. HERITAGE FUND REQUEST – WILLOW LANE ATHLETIC COMPLEX SOFTBALL FIELDS – Requested by Karen Bledsoe, Administration Superintendent and Paula Lawson, Adult Sports Manager (Item III.C. on the agenda)

The Softball Player Fund fees, which generate approx. $60,000 per year, requests approval for renovations at Willow Lane Athletic Complex. The renovation would include demolition and remodel of inside the concession area, making it compliant with annual health inspection requirements, at the cost of $70,000. There is currently $250,000 in the Softball Heritage Trust Fund.

The Request for Funding for Heritage Trust Projects has been submitted to the Commission for approval (Exhibit B).

RECOMMENDATION: The department recommends that the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission approve the Request for Funding of $70,000 from the Softball Heritage Trust Fund to be used for Willow Lane Athletic Complex Softball Field improvements.

D. LICENSE AGREEMENT – GEM STATE DISC GOLFERS AT ANN MORRISON PARK – Requested by Jerry Pugh, Community Programs Coordinator (Item III.D. on the agenda)

Boise Parks and Recreation has been in contract with the Gem State Disc Golfers (GSDG) to develop and maintain the Ann Morrison Park Disc Golf Course since the development of the first nine holes via a License Agreement in 1997 and the subsequent addition of an additional nine holes in 2001.

In the interest of growing the sport of disc golf, GSDG holds leagues and a series of tournaments throughout the year. Per the League Play License Agreement (Exhibit C), GSDG is granted two days per week in which to conduct league and tournament play. During weeks that tournaments are scheduled, GSDG will be required to suspend league play as to not surpass the allowed two-day use.

The proposed agreement would expire on Sept. 30, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION: The department requests the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission recommend approval of the License Agreement with the Gem State Disc Golfers to conduct programming in Ann Morrison Park, to Boise City Council.

E. NATIVE VEGETATION RESTORATION PROJECT – WILLOW LANE PARK – Requested by Trevor Kesner, Parks Planner and Martha Brabec, Foothills Restoration Specialist (Item III.E. on the agenda)

Boise Parks and Recreation seeks to enhance and restore critical wildlife habitat within the riparian corridor by removing manicured turf and planting native shrubs/grasses along the Boise River, adjacent to Willow Lane Athletic Complex and the Lander Street Wastewater Renewal Facility.

Project Background
Removing ‘manicured turf’ in an existing park situated within the floodplain and river corridor and replacing it with native riparian vegetation would enhance riparian functions and values of the
habitat. Enhancement of the native shrubs will help reduce invasive plant species, maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water resources, and contribute to the health and quality of life in the community.

All work on this habitat restoration project will be performed by Boise Parks and Recreation. Due to the project area location (situated within the Boise River floodplain areas), a Boise River System and Floodplain Permit is required from the Boise Planning and Zoning Commission (Exhibit D).

Objectives & Project Area
1. Reduce invasive species and enhance native shrubs and grasses in upland areas (Area A)
2. Reduce turf and install native plant materials along the riparian zone (Area B)
3. Augment native seeding (applied winter 2019) with native shrubs around newly installed greenbelt at the Lander Street Facility (Area C)

Planting List
Shrubs
- Golden Currant - 200
- Potentilla - 200
- Black Hawthorne - 100
- Wood’s Rose - 200
- Oakleaf Sumac - 200
- Bitterbrush -100

Seed Mix
- Bluebunch Wheatgrass
- Sandberg Bluegrass
- Bottlebrush Squirreltail
- Basin Big Sagebrush
- Rabbitbrush
- Showy Milkweed

Timeline
Site preparation will be conducted by the contractor and should be completed by the end of February. The goal of site preparation is to create a mostly weed-free planting bed for shrub installation, which will happen on March 28 by Rotary Club 5400. Seeding will occur immediately after the site is prepared. Seedlings will be protected by plant protectors and mulch will be applied immediately after installation. Weed management and maintenance will continue through summer and fall through a partnership between the city and rotary club.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The department requests the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission approve the direction of the restoration project and recommend approval of the Boise River System & Floodplain Permit required for vegetation restoration at Willow Lane Park, to the Boise Planning and Zoning Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS AGENDA**

**A. MINUTES – JANUARY 23, 2020 –** Requested by Doug Holloway, Boise Parks and Recreation Director (Item IV.A. on the agenda)

**RECOMMENDATION:** The department recommends that the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission recommend approval of the January 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes (Exhibit E), to Boise City Council.

**B. SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST – PESTICIDE REDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM –** Requested by Jennifer Tomlinson, Parks Superintendent (Item IV.B. on the agenda)

Boise Parks and Recreation manages more than 1,600 acres of park land and more than 5,000 acres of open space across the City of Boise. To promote sustainable practices and stay on the cutting edge of public land management, the department is planning to embark on a multi-year pilot program this spring to study alternative land management techniques to reduce the use of pesticides on city-owned property.

The goal of the pilot program is to use a variety of methods to manage grass, soil, tree wells, and other landscaped areas while studying the effects of a reduction in synthetic chemical use. Methods tested on city-managed property could include organic treatments, higher and less frequent mowing, hand pulling, strategic planting or other best practices identified through emerging research. The city will also be monitoring how these methods affect maintenance standards and resource management.

The department hosted a public meeting on Feb. 13 to provide more information to citizens about its current weed and pest management practices and discuss the goals of the pilot program. Following the public meeting on Feb. 13, the project team plans to host another public meeting in March to discuss park and facility locations that meet the criteria for potential inclusion in the pilot program. Community feedback will be gathered throughout this process— including the selection of pilot sites— and information will be updated on the city’s website so people can stay up to date on the program and data/findings throughout the multi-year study.

Daniel Roop, the department’s sustainability specialist, will present to the Commission on the program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** No recommendation is needed as this is an informational item.
C. DEPARTMENT POLICY – CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT REQUESTS – Requested by Doug Holloway, Boise Parks and Recreation Director (Item IV.C. on the agenda)

The City of Boise encourages citizens to attend commission and committee meetings. To promote citizen engagement opportunities, Boise Parks and Recreation has created a department policy outlining additional opportunities and processes for public comment at its board meetings (Exhibit F).

Department committees and commissions include:
- The Development Impact Fee Advisory Committee
- The Open Space and Clean Water Advisory Committee
- The Parks and Recreation Commission
- The Ridge to Rivers Partnership

The Citizen Engagement Request Policy allows citizens to submit requests to the respective commission or committee, with the intention of being placed on an upcoming meeting agenda.

RECOMMENDATION: The department recommends that the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission approve the Citizen Engagement Request Department Policy.

D. EXTENSION REQUEST – WILLIAMS PARK DOG OFF-LEASH PROGRAM – PUBLIC HEARING – Requested by Jennifer Tomlinson, Parks Superintendent and Jerry Pugh, Community Programs Coordinator (Item IV.D. on the agenda)

The City of Boise offers a wide variety of opportunities for dogs to run and play off-leash. There are five dog off-leash parks and nine dog off-leash areas throughout the Boise parks system.

Williams Park, located at 300 W Williams St, currently has designated dog off-leash hours of:
- Aug. 1 – May 31: Sunrise to 10 a.m.
- June 1 – July 31: 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Year-round: 4 p.m. to Sunset

In November of 2019, the department received a request to extend the dog off-leash program hours at Williams Park.

Williams Park Dog Off-Leash Program Background
On April 9, 2013, the department received a petition requesting Williams Park be considered for off-leash use (Exhibit G). Upon review, the Parks and Open Space Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission, directed the department to reach out to the neighborhood to determine how it felt about the park being added to the city’s Hourly Off-Leash Program.

Neighborhood sentiment was sought through a neighborhood meeting and survey.

Public Meeting
A public meeting was held on June 27, 2013, where the public was invited to ask questions and make comments on the request (Exhibit H). Concerns raised during the public meeting included:

1. Petition – Some neighbors questioned the validity of the petition and process. It was explained that the Park and Open Space Subcommittee reviewed the petition and felt it warranted being vetted, and that the survey and public meeting was a mechanism used to determine neighborhood support. Neighbors submitted a counter petition in opposition to off-leash use, in response.
2. Proximity – Neighbors questioned why Williams Park was being considered, with Manitou Park being available for off-leash use a mile away. It was explained that the vetting process was being driven by the petition that was received asking that off-leash use be considered.

3. Dog Waste – Both dog owners and non-dog owners acknowledged that the clean-up of dog waste was a major issue. Some neighbors expressed concerns about owners failing to pick up after their dogs, citing that they see dog waste in the park without it being off-leash and expressing fears that the problem will increase if the park is made available for off-leash use. Others offered that they are seeing less dog waste in the park at the off-leash areas, because users have taken ownership of the park and pick up after each other.

4. Controlled Off-Leash Use - Neighbors expressed concern that not all dog owners have control over their animals, and that they would be running loose in the on-leash areas or harass the wildlife.

5. Compliance and Enforcement - Neighbors understood that not everyone is a responsible dog owner and asked for additional enforcement and fines to encourage people to comply. Many asked how this new program can be enforced, because the current laws are not fully and consistently enforced. It was explained that there are only two enforcement officers dedicated to patrolling the parks and foothills.

6. Increased Traffic - Neighbors had concerns about how use of their neighborhood park will increase with the off-leash proposal and the impact the increased traffic will have on their neighborhood. They were concerned that the use would turn their park into a “Destination Park.” Staff indicated that with numerous sites across the city, the hope is that the impact will be spread out. However, the full impact is unknown and will have to be monitored throughout the pilot period if the park is approved for off-leash use.

7. Other Uses – Neighbors expressed a concern that allowing dogs off-leash would make the proposed area unavailable for other uses. Soccer, lacrosse, and other groups use the area for practices/activities, and they believe dogs would prevent them from using it in the future. Others cited that there is a similar situation at Manitou Park, where both soccer teams and dog owners use the area, and they’ve found a way to make it work.

Survey Results
Postcards were sent to neighbors within a ½ mile radius of Williams Park (2,162 addresses), from which neighbors could provide their feedback via returning the post card or online.

There were 368 responses to the survey. Of those, three respondents failed to indicate if they were in support or opposition to the off-leash proposal and six were submitted from addresses outside the ½ mile area of impact. Responses received after the survey was closed were not included in the final tally.

Park Survey Results from All Respondents (368):
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<th>Oppose</th>
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<td>Mornings</td>
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<td>Evenings</td>
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Park Survey Results from Neighbors (359):
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<td>Evenings</td>
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On June 28, 2013, a counter petition was received from neighbors voicing opposition to the off-leash proposal (Exhibit I). The counter petition cited fencing, conflicts with other uses, and turning Williams Park into a destination park as concerns.
On July 18, 2013 the proposal was taken to the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission for review. Staff provided a summary report of the feedback received from the neighborhood and the Commission heard public testimony. Upon conclusion of testimony, the Commission voted to pilot the off-leash program for a one-year period. Off-leash use was approved for sunrise to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to sunset. The approved off-leash area consisted of the four-acre open field on the west end of the park, defined by the property lines on the north, south, and west ends and the irrigation ditch and sidewalk to the east. All areas on the east side of the park, encompassing the playground, restroom/shelter, and basketball court, were required on-leash.

Year-One Pilot Period
At the request of the Commission, quarterly updates were provided at its meetings. Throughout the pilot period, city staff monitored the park for compliance and impact to other uses. The city’s Animal Enforcement Officers maintained visitation logs, citizen feedback was collected, and staff conducted two week-long surveys to observe and document use patterns (evening off-leash hours from Sept. 22 – Oct. 2, 2013; morning off-leash hours from June 1 – June 7, 2014).

At the end of the year-one pilot period, the neighborhood was once again surveyed via mailed survey cards to gauge neighborhood support.

End of Year-One Pilot Period Survey Results
There was a total of 280 respondents for the end of year-one pilot period survey. Of the 280 responses, three failed to indicate if they were in support or in opposition to off-leash use, 27 were submitted from addresses outside the ½ mile area of impact, and five had incomplete addresses. Responses received after the survey was closed were not included in the final tally.

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<tr>
<td>Park Survey Results</td>
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<td>from All Respondents</td>
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<td>Mornings</td>
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<td>Evenings</td>
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<td>from Neighbors</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>26.8% (64)</td>
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A pilot period review was conducted by the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 17, 2014. The Commission reviewed the data collected and presented by city staff and heard public testimony. At the conclusion of testimony, the Commission approved piloting the off-leash program for another year and altering the morning hours to be from 7:30 to 10 a.m. The Commission also approved continuing evening hours from 4 p.m. to sunset, on the condition that staff further vet the impacts to sports teams and return for the August 2014 Commission meeting with additional information.

Staff subsequently reached out to the sports leagues that were known to use the park. The Snake River Rugby Club, Idaho Rush Soccer and YMCA all indicated they hadn’t experienced any conflict. The feedback received was taken to the Parks Commission on Aug. 21, 2014, along with options for off-leash hours. In the leadup to the Commission meeting, staff discovered that the hours approved by the Commission at the July 2014 meeting would be in violation of City Code, since sunrise occurs after 7:30 a.m. for a portion of the year.

To compensate, the Commission opted to offer off-leash hours from sunrise to 10 a.m. from Aug. 1 – May 31, and 7 to 10 a.m. from June 1 – July 31. Additionally, the Commission approved extending evening hours from 4 p.m. to sunset.
Year-Two Pilot Period
Like the first-year pilot period, city staff monitored Williams Park for compliance and impact to other uses. The city’s Animal Enforcement Officers continued maintaining visitation logs, citizen feedback was collected, and staff conducted another survey, from May 31 – June 6, 2015, to document use.

At the conclusion of the year-two pilot period, the neighborhood was once again surveyed via mailed cards to gauge support. There were 251 total number of respondents, and support was consistent with the previous surveys.

End of Year-Two Pilot Period Survey Results

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<td>Support</td>
<td>84.5% (212)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>15.5% (39)</td>
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Mornings; Aug. 1 – May 31, Sunrise to 10 a.m. 73.5% (185)
Mornings; June 1 – July 31, 7 – 10 a.m. 72.5% (182)
Evenings 97.6% (245)

A review of the year-two pilot period was conducted by the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 16, 2015. A summary of events from the original petition through the year-two pilot period was presented by staff and public testimony was heard. The Commission approved continuing the Williams Park off-leash program on a regular basis, with off-leash hours being offered from Aug. 1 through May 31; sunrise to 10 a.m., June 1 through July 31, 7 to 10 a.m.; and 4 p.m. to sunset year-round.

Current Status
In November 2019, the department received a request to extend the dog off-leash hours at Williams Park, signed by 30 park users. In addition to requesting an extension of the hours, the petition requested the installation of benches (Exhibit J), as there is currently only one bench adjacent to the dog off-leash area.

Adjacent neighbors have indicated that they object the requests (Exhibit K) for the following reasons:
- People do not honor the times allowed
- Owners do not pick up after their dogs
- People do not have control of their animals and they jump on other people
- Some dogs get attacked by other dogs
- Garbage, including needles, are left in the park and areas maintained by the HOA

Benches
The installation of benches – and other items such as garbage cans, mutt mitt dispensers and water fountains – are identified and implemented through the park operations division of the department. These items are considered part of a park’s infrastructure and locations are identified that streamline maintenance of parks. When benches or other items considered to be part of the infrastructure are being placed in a park, staff consider the impact to user groups, impact to adjacent neighbors, ability of mowers to navigate the site and any irrigation hazards. In this instance, staff considered the use of drop-in sports on the field space and impact to adjacent neighbors when deciding to mark out bench locations that face the park.
Extension of Hours
On average, Animal Enforcement Officers are visiting the site three times a week and find that most of the complaints are related to dogs being off leash outside of the established hours. Animal Enforcement has documented, on average, nine encounters a month over the last year. This number is similar to enforcement at other neighborhood parks that have dog off-leash hours.

The department does not believe that an increase in hours is currently needed at Williams Park. After observing the evening patterns of use, it appears as though most users are well trained in the current hours, and while increasing the hours would provide time in the winter, it currently is not recommended on a year-round basis.

RECOMMENDATION: The department recommends that the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission deny the request for additional hours to the Williams Park Dog Off-Leash Program.