



PARKS AND  
RECREATION

# 2022 Youth Programs Annual Report

## Kid City After School Programs

In the fall of 2021, as with the rest of the nation, the City of Boise's Kid City programs were short staffed and we were only able to open five of our nine after school locations with limited enrollment. Those sites were located at Morley Nelson, Whitney, Whittier, Taft and Jefferson. Then in January of 2022, with the addition of new staff, we were able to open two more of our after-school sites located at McMillan and Garfield. Needless to say, families and the schools were excited to have these valuable programs back! In the summer of 2022, Morley Nelson Community Center re-opened the Summer program to 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students from 12-5 p.m. During fiscal year 2022, we had seven after school sites open and Morley Nelson's summer program resulting in 49,302 visits which is nearly 22,000 more visits than the previous year!

## Teen Programming

During the pandemic, the City of Boise shut down most teen programming. With lifted protocols, we are happy to report that our teen programs are rebuilding. In Fall 2021, we were able to reopen Teen City, which is a free afterschool program offered at South Junior High. In the 2021-2022 school year, we had 806 visits in the program.

In the summer of 2022, we expanded a new version of the Out & About Camp for youth in the 7th-9th grades. This camp takes young teens "out and about" all over the valley to experience outdoors activities (swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding, hiking, floating the river), history, STEM, food, recreation attractions (trampoline parks, state parks, miniature golf, bowling) and much more. In the summer of 2022, the program expanded from 4 weeks to 8 weeks and over 400 registered for summer fun.



## Wolverines on Wheels

Whitney Community Center's bike club called "Wolverine on Wheels" had another great year. *Wolverines on Wheels* meets weekly during the fall and spring and rides to different locations in Boise. This year some of the highlight destinations were the new Franklin Park, Boise Bicycle Project and to an ice cream shop. Approximately 12-15 kids (and 3-4 staff and volunteers) make up the *Wolverines on Wheels*. *Wolverines on Wheels* is a partnership with Treasure Valley Safe Route's to School and facilitated by the Whitney Community Center.

## Partnerships

Once again, our programs were fortunate enough to have numerous partners who offered educational, impactful and unique experiences for the youth who attend our programs. Below are some of our partners (STEM partners are found on page 4).

The University of Idaho 4-H Extension continues to be a valued partner with our after school programs. This past year they stopped by the after school programs and Playcamps several times and organized large sporting days involving kickball and soccer with the youth. In the fall, they returned to our centers numerous times for enriching activities such as making leather bookmarks and pouches, 3D drawing, teaching about healthy eating, pollinator gardens and insects.

We are always thankful for the Boise State Service Learning students. Service Learning is a 'win-win' situation because our after-school programs gain a volunteer, the BSU students gain hands-on experience engaging with youth and our youth participants gain another positive adult relationship. The majority of the Service Learning students are enrolled in classes (i.e. Education, Kinesiology, Social Work, etc.) that compliment our programs and really give the BSU students the experience they are looking for.

Work U is an upper division class at BSU that gives undergraduate students professional development through on-the-job experience working with a Treasure Valley employer. Last year, Whitney Community Center was lucky to have two Work U students complete an internship with the after school program. The students volunteered 10 hours/week creating STEM projects for the youth. Typically, the Work U students help develop a program that we can implement in the future. On numerous occasions, after their internship, we have been able to hire the students on to our team.

Whitney Community Center partnered with Whitney Community Schools and a group of volunteers to transform the garden into an engaging and tactile learning garden. Volunteers cleaned up and planted tomatoes and flowers that were provided by the Boise Urban Garden School. New pots and soil were donated by the Southwest Rotary Club and the *North End Organic Nursery*. The garden is a resource utilized by Whitney Elementary classrooms during the day and our community center in the afternoon.

In the fall, First Lego League went to Whittier Kid City for a weekly science and engineering program with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. The youth learned about engineering and design concepts while building with Legos.



Yearly, Idaho Botanical Gardens donates hundreds of free passes so the youth in our programs and their families can visit Winter Garden aGlow during the Holiday Season.

This past year, Ustick Library visited Morley Nelson twice a month to read to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students and provide an educational activity. The youth received the opportunity to engage with a librarian and learn more about the library's valuable resources. Hillcrest Library continually provides educational resources for the after school program at Whitney Community Center.

We've developed a lasting partnership with the Boise Bicycle Project (BBP) that spans at least 10 years. The BBP provides a mobile bike repair program where youth can bring their bikes to our Kid City programs on certain days and the BBP will repair them at no cost. This year the BBP came to our after-school and summer programs over 12 times fixing approximately 350 bikes. Not only do they help kids and families with free bike repairs, but numerous kids in our programs have received a free bike from them. This past summer, BBP celebrated their 10,000th bike give away by providing a bicycle to a deserving child from Morley Nelson Community Center!

Morley Nelson and Whitney Community Centers coordinated large "Bike to School Day" events on Wednesday, May 4. Over 100 Whitney Elementary students, along with Mayor McLean, City Council Members, members of our community and Whitney school staff biked from Shoshone Park to Whitney Elementary. Later that day Boise Parks and Recreation staff from Morley Nelson Community Center created and coordinated a bike obstacle course during lunch recess. At both events we were able to give away cool biking swag donated by the Boise Bicycle Project and Treasure Valley Safe Routes to School.

## Lunch in the Park

City of Boise Parks and Recreation again partnered with the Boise School District Food and Nutrition Services to offer free lunches to youth ages 1-18 over the summer of 2022. This program took place in four city parks located at Cassia, Ivywild, Sunset and Winstead for 10 weeks, and required over 144 service hours! Thanks to all who helped us serve 6,186 lunches and offer food security when schools are out. A deep thank you to local businesses (Horizon Credit Union, Red Built, Hartwell Corporation and Citi), community organizations (Boise Metro Rotary), Boise Parks and Recreation staff, Boise Police Department, Boise

School Food and Nutrition Services, Hawthorne Elementary food service team, Morley Nelson food service team, and all the other caring individuals who made this possible. The City of Boise will be offering this service again in 2023. Organizations, individuals or businesses who are interested in volunteering in the way may reach out to Marie Hattaway, [mhattaway@cityofboise.org](mailto:mhattaway@cityofboise.org), 208-608-7688 for more details.



## Youth Bussing/ Nations United

When Boise Parks and Recreation's busses are not in use, we often partner with local organizations and schools to help get youth to out-of-school programming across the city. We completed our 11<sup>th</sup> season with local non-profit, Nations United to transport youth with refugee backgrounds to soccer games. Boise Parks and Recreation helped transport 90 kids, from 8 teams to over 52 practices and games in the fall and spring of 2022.



## Tennis

Tennis took a leap forward in 2022 when we were awarded a Diversity and Inclusion grant from the Idaho Tennis Association. The award allowed for the purchase of 30 racquets, mobile nets, tennis balls and small teaching tools for staff to travel to after school and summer locations and provide tennis instruction. The Idaho Tennis Association staff organized a tennis coaching clinic, and our staff completed Safe Play training through the USTA.

This past school year, we organized 18 tennis lessons at after school locations resulting in 324 youth visits. Additionally, over the summer, City tennis instructor Pete Peterson was able to bring instruction to our Summer Playcamps. Pete began leading pickleball/tennis hybrid clinics in the fall of 2022, giving us another tool to utilize in the future for diversifying our lessons.

We strive to give youth positive alternatives, and each tennis visit is another chance to provide children with an active, accessible, and healthy outlet. Tennis promotes an active lifestyle and teaches fundamental skills like eye-hand coordination, balance, and kinesthetic awareness. The City has an array of tennis courts in our parks that youth now feel comfortable utilizing because of our efforts. We are excited to watch this program grow.



## STEM Programming Partnerships

STEM continues to be an increasingly vital element to Boise Parks and Recreation's after school programs. Below are some of the wonderful partnerships that engage the youth at our after school programs with meaningful and educational STEM opportunities.

We are completing our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a four-year partnership with Boise State Mathematics Professors Dr. Sasha Wang and Dr. Yu-Hui Ching. Dr. Wang and her team were awarded funding from the National Science Foundation to conduct a study titled "Using Constructive Mathematics Pathways to Advance Preservice Elementary Teachers' Learning." This grant enables BSU education students to bring a variety of science, technology, engineering, and math opportunities to our after school programs. Professor Wang integrates innovative approaches into her college math courses for prospective elementary school teachers. Each semester the college students complete service learning by working with youth in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade who attend our Kid City programs. Teams of college students visit the after school programs for two weeks and work with groups of 8-10 youth on a STEM inquiring project. Some of the teams end their activity with a field trip to BSU. This year's project on building windmills taught the youth about wind energy and efficiency. The students worked in small groups to build a windmill that could lift the most weight. This is a great opportunity for our participants to interact with college students and to develop good attitudes about STEM and it helps build their confidence toward future opportunities.



Professor Dan Luna, from the BSU Geosciences Department, brought college students from Electrical Engineering and Volcanic Studies to Whitney Community Center for a one-time event. Our participants were able to do hands on science activities with electricity and were able to blow up different types of volcanos. Professor Luna introduced us to the graduate students at the Geosciences Department and four different PhD Candidates visited our Summer Playcamps at Ivywild, Cassia and Sunset Parks. The participants were able to learn about weather, earth and volcanos. Additionally, Ashley Bosa, a BSU PhD Student studying Volcanology developed a one credit Community Outreach Course for the Spring of 2023 and plans to partner with us to bring more STEM activities to our after school programs.

In the fall of 2022 we collaborated with Boise State Clinical Instructor and Faculty Advocate for Math, Lucas Younger to bring IDoTeach Secondary STEM Education and Math Education Collaborative to our after school sites. BSU students visited four of after school sites and taught a fun science lesson which will hopefully continue each semester at varying Kid City programs going forward.



## Playcamp

Boise Parks and Recreation’s Playcamps were offered at eight City parks in the Summer of 2022. Our wonderful team of part-time staff ran organized and quality programming each day to provide a fun and memorable summer for the participants. Weekly, each camp went on a field trip and swam at one of the City’s pools. In addition to field trips, numerous partners provided onsite opportunities at the parks. These summer partners included the Boise Bicycle Project, University of Idaho Extension 4-H, JUMP, Serving Love Tennis Foundation, Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center, Boise State Geosciences and the Idaho Out of School Network.

Over the 11 weeks of summer, Playcamps had a record high of 3,749 visits. This year, Playcamps filled faster than ever proving this is a very worthwhile and affordable program for families.



Over the school’s winter holiday break and Spring Break, the community centers at Whitney and Whittier held Winter Break/Spring Break

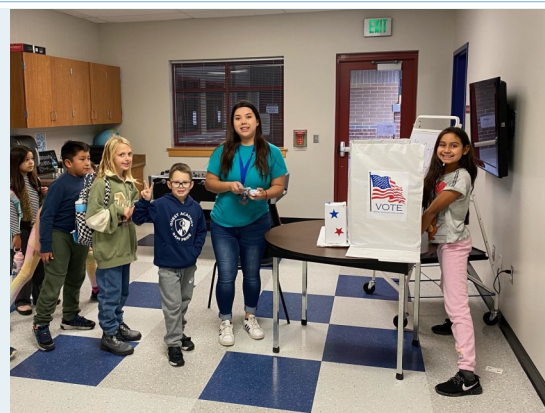
Playcamps. These weeklong camps were a spinoff of our summer Playcamps and offer the opportunity for a safe and active place for children to be during the day. Parents commented on how helpful it was to have a fun place for their children to go while they worked. Each day the camps were filled with art projects, recreation games, science activities and other fun programs. Over the three weeks, there were 360 visits by the youth enrolled.



*“This summer marked the 5th year that one of our children spent the entire summer enrolled in a City of Boise Playcamp. We love that our kids get to play outside, swim at the City pools and visit other youth-friendly attractions all summer. We also like that it’s an all-day camp which allows us to work our normal schedules.”*

## Election Day at Whitney Kid City

On Election Day, Whitney Kid City had their own elections and the youth learned about the process and importance of voting. Instead of electing a new political candidate, the youth voted on which Kid City staff would be elected to oversee the after school program for a day. Not surprisingly, the staff who offered more ‘free time’ won the election! It was a fun way to engage the youth in the voting process.





## Partners and Sponsors

**Thank you for your support!**

Boise Bicycle Project  
Boise City Library!  
Boise Metro Rotary  
Boise Police Department  
Boise School District  
Boise School District's Community Schools  
Boise School District Food & Nutrition Services  
Boise State Geosciences  
Boise State Service Learning  
Boise State University Mathematics Dept.  
Boise State University IDoTeach  
Boise State University Work U  
Boise Urban Garden School  
Borah High School's Orchestra  
Book it Forward  
Citi  
Eat Smart Idaho  
First Lego League  
GoGo squeeZ  
Hartwell Corporation  
Hidden Springs Community  
Horizon Credit Union  
Idaho Botanical Garden  
Idaho Out-of-School Network  
Idaho Tennis Association  
Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center  
JUMP  
Library! at Hillcrest  
Library! at Cole & Ustick  
National Science Foundation  
Nations United  
North End Organic Nursery  
Red Built  
Serving Love – Pete Peterson  
Sojourn Church  
Southwest Rotary Club  
St. Luke's Community Health Improvement Fund  
STEM Action Center  
Suburban Propane  
Target  
Treasure Valley Safe Routes to School  
Treasure Valley Children's Theater  
United Way of Idaho  
University of Idaho 4-H Extension Program  
Vista Neighborhood Association  
West Ada School District  
Whitney United Methodist Church

## Holiday Shopping Returns In Person

In December, the annual Holiday Shopping Spree returned with much excitement by the 165 youth who participated. The Holiday Shopping Spree began in 2007 and has provided an opportunity for thousands of children in 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade from our after school programs the chance to go shopping for the holidays. The children all receive a gift card and are helped by volunteers so that they can stay within the limits of the gift card. The money raised from the program has been generously donated by the community. The prior two years, the shopping spree moved to online shopping due to Covid restrictions. However, this year we were back to in-person and 50 volunteers each donated three hours helping the youth from the after school programs at Whitney, Taft, Morley Nelson and Garfield spend their \$40 gift card at Target. Many youth purchased gifts for themselves as well as a sibling or another family member.

## Thanksgiving Feasts for the Community

Before the Thanksgiving Holiday, Morley Nelson and Whitney after school programs helped provide a Thanksgiving meal for the people in their community. This was the 8<sup>th</sup> year for the Morley Nelson feast and the 10<sup>th</sup> year for Whitney's annual Thanksgiving feast. Combined, the sites fed almost 400 people. Many thanks to the wonderful partners who helped make this a special evening. For the event at Morley Nelson, thank you to Morley Nelson Elementary for the use of the space and the Hidden Springs Community who provided the food and 35 volunteers for the meal. For the meal at Whitney, thank you to Whitney Elementary for the space, Sojourn Church



who provided the food and volunteers, the Whitney United Methodist Church who provided the dishes and the Borah High School orchestra who played festive live music throughout the dinner. Both events provided a wonderful

evening for families and friends to get together and celebrate the season.

