



YOUTH PROGRAMS

YOUTH SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2023



PARKS AND RECREATION



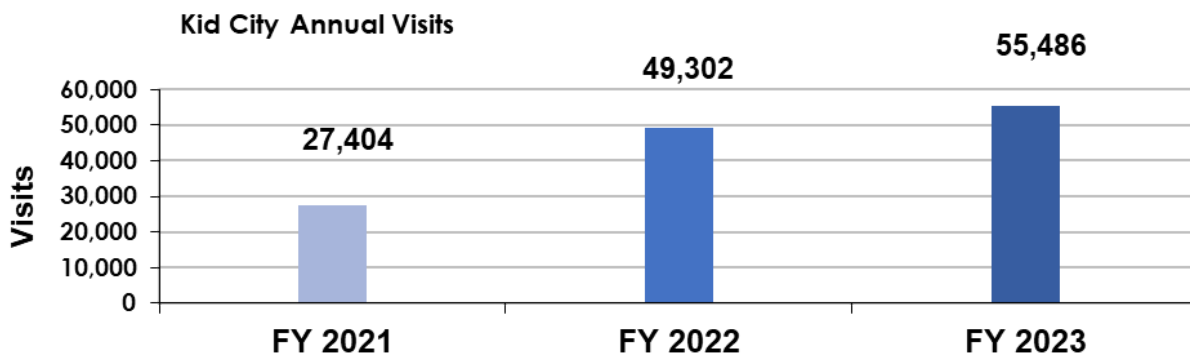
Mayor McLean cuts the ribbon for the new Hillcrest After School site.

KID CITY PROGRAMS

In the fall of 2022, 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 seven out of nine after school locations. Those sites were located at Morley Nelson, Whitney, Whittier, Taft, Garfield, McMillan and Jefferson. Then in April of 2023, with the addition of new staff, we were able to open a brand new after-school site located at Hillcrest Elementary. Hillcrest staff have been so wonderful to build the program with and the families have expressed how much they appreciate the program.

In the summer of 2023, Whitney Community Center re-opened the Summer program to 1st-6th grade students from 12-5 p.m. During fiscal year 2023, we had eight elementary after school sites, a teen site and Whitney's summer program resulting in 55,486 visits! These numbers have been on the rise since the pandemic.

*One parent said, "Our son has flourished at Kid City. The staff is welcoming, supportive, patient, and professional. Our son is always sad to leave (and often asks if we can pick him up later). The programming is engaging, age-appropriate, organized, and thoughtful. We cannot speak highly enough of both our son's experience and our experience with the staff and program at Kid City. Most importantly, we wanted you to know **that as parents, high school teachers, and community members we see what an incredible job they are doing and what a gem of a resource it is to our community.** He can't wait to go back next year and we can't wait to sign him up."*



PLAYCAMPS



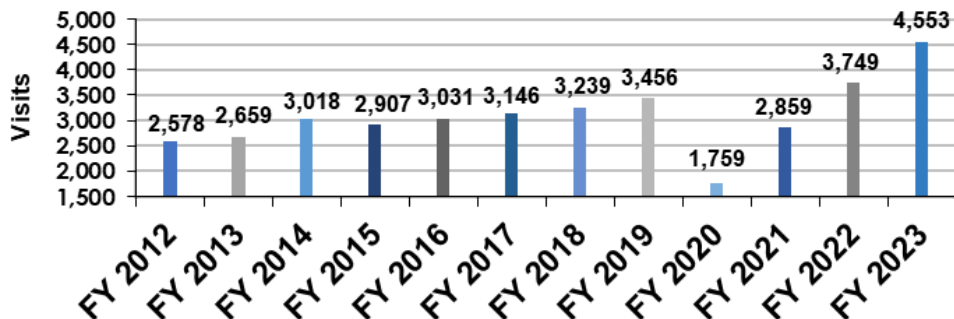
Boise Parks and Recreation's Playcamps's popularity has grown tremendously in the past few years. About five years ago, the City offered six Playcamps. In 2023, we have increased to 9 Playcamp with the newest located at Mantiou Park. Our wonderful team of four full-time staff and approximately 55 part-time 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, Boise Parks and Recreation's art department, University of Idaho 4-H Extension, JUMP and the Idaho Out of School Network.



Over the 11 weeks of summer, Playcamps had a record high of 4,553 visits. One parent stated, "We are absolutely loving this camp through Parks and Recreation. My sister and a friend also have kids enrolled and feel the same. This was much less expensive than other programs we were with in the past plus the curriculum is a lot better and the counselor are more interactive. Just wanted to pass along we appreciate you and your staff!"

Another parent said, "My sons are both participating in your Playcamp. Thank you so much for all the work that you do and have done. The counselors and leaders have been absolutely phenomenal and helpful. My boys have loved it! This is our first experience with Boise Parks and Recreation Playcamp and I'm kicking myself that I have not done this earlier in previous summers because they really have been enjoying the activities, themes and they look forward to going every morning. They feel very safe and cared for there which is really important to me. Thank you so much and if you need more feedback, please let me know. Thank you so much for all you do!"

Youth Playcamp Yearly Visits



TEEN PROGRAMING

The City of Boise offers free afterschool programming for teens during the school year, including the drop-in Teen Activity Center at Fort Boise Community Center and Teen City, offered at South Junior High. Staffing was a challenge throughout the 2022-2023 school year, so both programs did not run at full capacity. However, we had 607 visits at Teen City, and hundreds of kids took advantage of the gym time at Fort Boise Community Center.

In the summer of 2023, we again offered Out & About Camp for youth in 7th-9th grades. This camp takes young teens "out and about" all over the valley to experience outdoor activities such as swimming, kayaking, paddleboarding, hiking, and floating the river, as well as history, STEM, food, and recreational attractions like trampoline parks, state parks, miniature golf, and bowling. The program is offered for 8 weeks, and we had 163 young teens register for over 468 visits.



YOUTH BUSSING/NATIONS UNITED

Boise Parks and Recreation buses got a facelift in 2023! Our new wraps are colorful, representative of many of our activities, and bring smiles to riders as they board.

When buses 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 12th season with the local nonprofit Nations United to transport youth with refugee backgrounds to soccer games. Boise Parks and Recreation helped transport over 90 kids from 9 teams to over 52 practices and games in the fall and spring of 2023.



STEM PARTNERSHIPS

STEM continues to be an increasingly vital element to Boise Parks and Recreation's after school programs. We appreciated every single partnership that we have had and all the amazing opportunities that it has brought to our participants. Below are some of the wonderful partnerships that engage the youth in the Kid City after school programs with meaningful and educational STEM opportunities.

We are in the third year of a four-year partnership with the Boise State Mathematics Department led by 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. College students visit the after school programs for two weeks and work with groups of 8-10 youth on a STEM inquiry project, which includes field trips to BSU. This year's project on building windmills taught the youth about wind energy and efficiency. This is a great opportunity for the youth in our programs to interact with college students and to develop good attitudes about STEM which helps build their confidence toward future opportunities.

For the past four years, donations from the St. Luke's Community Health Improvement Fund have enabled us to create STEM kits, allowing us to provide science activities twice a month at all our after school sites. These kits provide fun, interactive and educational STEM related projects.

Boise State PhD student, Ashley Bosa, and a group of PhD candidates from the Geosciences department at BSU brought science activities for after school youth that focused on the atmosphere and weather formations.

We continue to be a part of the Idaho Out of School Network (ION) and have recently started utilizing their AmeriCorps member to bring STEM to the Whitney Community Center and our Winter Break Camps.



We continued our partnership with University of Idaho Professor Daniele Tonina and his laboratory director Ralph Budwig. On a monthly basis, they brought hands-on activities and science challenges to our after school programs. These visits introduced youth to the science behind the surface water process, and it's impact on ecosystems. Youth learned about water flumes and visited the water flume facility at Boise State. These activities were fun and engaging and the kids look forward to their visits.

During the fall 2023, we began a new partnership with the On Ramp Program which is funded through grant money provided by BSU, the College of Western Idaho and the Apple Community Education Initiative. They brought technology-based STEM programming for two weeks to several of our after school sites and have been focusing on teaching youth in the 3rd-6th grade how to utilize digital design for projects such as coding, drawing and motion.

We have been lucky to continue our partnership with the University of Idaho 4-H extension office. They have been visiting our after school programs and Playcamps once a week on a rotating schedule. They bring interactive STEAM projects that we may otherwise not have the opportunity to do. Recent STEAM projects include 3D printer pens, cup robots and songwriting.

FUN

PICNIC IN THE PARK

The City of Boise Parks and Recreation partnered again with the Boise School District Food and Nutrition Services to offer free lunches to youth ages 1-18 over the summer of 2023. This program took place in four city parks located at Cassia, Ivywild, Sunset and Winstead for 10 weeks, requiring over 144 service hours. Thanks to all who helped serve 5,831 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 Schools Food and Nutrition Services, and all the other caring individuals who made this possible. The City of Boise will be offering this service again in 2024. Organizations, individuals, or businesses interested in volunteering may reach out to Marie Hattaway at mhattaway@cityofboise.org or 208-608-7688 for more details.



WHITNEY COMMUNITY GARDEN

The community garden at Whitney Community Center got a revamp and transformed into an Interactive Learning Garden. Boise Downtown Rotary generously donated their time and funds to help purchase needed materials such as large ceramic pots, landscape cover, organic soil, garden beds, tools for kids, vegetable and flower plants and more! The volunteers worked hard to build beautiful benches and install a new canvas cover to create an outdoor classroom. We are grateful for their continued support and generosity.

Along with the Boise Downtown Rotary, other community partners have come together with support for the garden. Kristin Gnojewski from Boise Parks and Recreation and her team of volunteers helped install a pollinator garden along the entire wall of the building, Boy Scouts installed new drip lines in the garden beds as part of an Eagle Project, Boise School District facilities helped with weed removal and many neighbors and volunteers helped with garden bed weeding and prepping. BUGS is working with the school and the community center to teach kids about gardening and will be implementing the "Seeds to Salad" program. We are excited for the Interactive Learning Garden to "grow" and look forward to many kids getting their hands dirty and reaping the benefits of their work with pride!

MORE FUN

MOBILE RECREATION

The Mobile Recreation Vans started programming again this year after being on pause since 2020. Mobile Recreation staff hosted several events during the summer to facilitate games and crafts at the City of Boise's Movies Under the Stars in Julia Davis Park. In the fall, we began partnering with the International Refugee Committee at Owyhee Park to play soccer, and other engaging activities.



OPEN ARMS DANCE PROJECT

Whitney and Jefferson after school programs partnered with the Open Arms Dance Project to offer a ten week "Upstanders" dance class. Upstanders with Open Arms is a program that promotes disability awareness, education, and acceptance of all human differences. It is deeply rooted in the values and missions of both Open Arms Dance Project and the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights. Along with fun dancing, the youth covered a variety of topics such as kindness and understanding. At the end of the program, the student put on a performance for their family.

WHITNEY ANIMAL CLUB

Whitney Community Center partnered with the Idaho Humane Society to create an animal service club at Whitney's after school program. Students organized and held a Pet Food drive at five different community centers and held a zoom call to help spread the word. Our programs were able to collect almost 273 pounds of pet food, 82 pet toys, two pet carriers and a dog bed.



EVEN MORE FUN



DISNEY ON ICE

In September, student from Morley Nelson, Whitney, Taft, Grace Jordan and the teen after school programs had the unique opportunity to attend a performance of Disney On Ice. Feld Entertainment donated enough tickets for each center to bring two staff and 13 youth to watch professional ice skaters skate to Disney themed music. Parents told our team members several days after the performance how wonderful it was for their children to see Disney on Ice. One mom stated, "her daughter danced all weekend after watching Disney on Ice." This was a real highlight for so many!



2023 THANKSGIVING FEASTS

Morley Nelson and Whitney's after school programs helped provide a free Thanksgiving meal for the people in their community. This was the 9th year for the Morley Nelson meal and the 11th year for the Whitney meal. The events were sponsored by Boise Parks and Recreation's after school programs, the Elementary schools, the Hidden Springs Community who provided the food and volunteers for Morley's meal, Sojourn Church who provided the food and volunteers for Whitney's meal, St. Stephen's Church and the Whitney United Methodist Church. Both meals were a huge success with a combined total of over 450 meals being served. These events provided a wonderful evening for families and friends to get together and celebrate the season.

2023 HOLIDAY SHOPPING SPREE

Thanks to the generosity of donors in our community, we were able to take 160+ students from four of our after school sites shopping at the Target on Eagle Road on December 20, 2023. The Holiday Shopping Spree began in 2007 and has provided an opportunity for thousands of children in 1st-6th grade from our after school programs the chance to go shopping for the holidays. The children all receive a \$40 gift card and are helped by volunteers so that they can stay within the limits of the gift card. It's such a heartwarming experience and we couldn't do it without the donors and the dozens of volunteers who join us to shop with them!

BIKE FUN

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL BIKE CLUBS

Our partnership with Valley Regional Transit's Safe Route's to School, expanded to include two new bike clubs in partnership with our after school programs. Joining Whitney's "Wolverines on Wheels" this past spring was Morley's "Rolling Raptors" and Jefferson's "Free Wheelin' Falcons." SRTS staff Lisa Brady, Charlie Hill, and Cody Goettl taught bike safety and lead the groups on weekly neighborhood bike rides. This year, both Jefferson and Whitney's clubs celebrated at the end of the season with ice cream at the Stil on Latah!

BOISE BIKE PROJECT

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 after school programs on certain days and the BBP will repair them at no cost. The BBP visited our after school programs over 15 times this year with their mobile bike repair. They also meet weekly during the summer at Whitney Community Center to host bike 'fix it' evenings, and they visited Playcamps at Cassia and Winstead Parks. One of our most important partnerships with BBP happens during their annual Holiday Bike Giveaway. This year, BPP donated close to 100 bikes to youth connected with our after school programs.

BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

Morley Nelson and Whitney Community Centers hosted events for National Bike to School Day on May 3, 2023. Each center continued their traditions of working with the schools, community members, and the Boise Bicycle Project to make this event fun and safe. This year Morley had their bicycle obstacle course on the playground during lunch recess. This year, Whitney teamed up with Hawthorne Elementary for the first time for the annual Bike to School event. The event had over 200 students, families, and staff from both schools ride their bikes from Shoshone Park to their schools. For the ride we were joined by Mayor McLean, City Council members, the Boise Bicycle Project, Valley Regional Transit's Safe Route's to School and our neighborhood police.



OUR PARTNERS

THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE OUR PROGRAMS
SO IMPACTFUL

Boise Bicycle Project	Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center
Boise City Library!	JUMP
Boise Metro Rotary	Library! at Hillcrest
Boise Police Department	Library! at Cole & Ustick
Boise School District	National Science Foundation
Boise School District's Community Schools	Nations United
Boise School District Food & Nutrition Services	North End Organic Nursery
Boise State Geosciences	On Ramp Program funded by BSU, the College of Western Idaho, and Apple Community Education Initiative
Boise State Service Learning	Open Arms Dance Project
Boise State TRIO Program	Quail Hollow Golf Course
Boise State University Mathematics Dept.	Red Built
Boise State University Work U	Sojourn Church
Boise Urban Garden School	Southwest Rotary Club
Borah High School's Orchestra	St. Luke's Community Health Improvement Fund
Boise Scouts of Idaho	St. Stephen's Church
Citi	Target
Downtown Rotary Club	The Stil on Latah
Feld Entertainment	Treasure Valley Children's Theater
First Lego League	University of Idaho 4-H Extension Program
Hartwell Corporation	University of Idaho Center for Eco Hydraulics Research
Hidden Springs Community	University of Idaho Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Horizon Credit Union	Valley Regional Transit's Safe Routes to School
Idaho Botanical Garden	Vista Neighborhood Association
Idaho Humane Society	West Ada School District
Idaho Out-of-School Network	Whitney United Methodist Church
International Refugee Committee	
James Castle House	