

CITY OF POCATELLO
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION AGENDA

October 13, 2016 · 9:00 AM
Council Chambers | 911 N 7th Avenue

1. ROLL CALL

2. AFRICAN SISTER CITIES SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Representatives from the African Sister Cities Subcommittee will discuss the Subcommittee's goals and projects, as well as Council's policies and expectations.

3. MERCER CONSULTING SERVICES PRESENTATION

Human Resources staff and Mercer Consulting Services representatives will be present to give a breakdown of services that Mercer provides for the City and to answer any questions Council may have regarding the service.

(Pertinent information attached.)

Documents:

[AGENDA-ITEM3.PDF](#)

4. PORTNEUF RIVER VISIONING UPDATE

City and Army Corps of Engineers staff will be present to discuss the Draft Portneuf River Vision, including public comment received and potential next steps for the project.

(Pertinent information attached.)

Documents:

[AGENDA-ITEM4.PDF](#)

AGENDA

ITEM

NO. 3

BENEFIT CONSULTING

FY 2017 Contract

Human Resources Department

Mercer Consulting Services

Reasons HR Uses a Consultant

- Obtain competitive quotes
- Establish comprehensive claims reports
- Provide cost projections and funding analysis
- Act as a liaison between City and Insurers
- Review policies and contracts for accuracy
- Maintain compliance with insurance regulations

Benefit Provider Assistance

- Medical (Aetna)
- Dental (Delta Dental of Idaho)
- Vision (VSP)
- Life Insurance (LifeMap)
- Supplemental Insurance Policies

Compliance Assistance

- Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- Medicare reporting
- Insurance notices to employees
- New law pertaining to benefits/insurance
- Policy compliance

H&B SERVICE SCHEDULE

Our Services consist of the following:

- Conduct strategic planning sessions to review performance of Client's current employee benefits coverage and establish future objectives and strategies to manage Client's employee benefit coverages to which this agreement applies.
- Meet with the Client's key designated representatives on a quarterly basis, to discuss strategy and open items.
- Develop a mutually agreeable renewal action plan and timeline that meets the Client's stated objectives.
- Keep the Client informed of significant changes and/or trends in the employee benefits marketplace.
- Benchmark plan costs and employee contributions to industry, size and regional standards on an annual basis.
- Analyze factors driving Client's plan costs if experience data is available. In connection with such analysis, we will review utilization reports to determine possible causes of identified cost increases. Assist Client in managing risks and costs of its employee benefits coverages.
- Establish comprehensive claims reports for identified coverages (medical, prescription, dental) detailing paid claims (and reimbursements if applicable), premium/funding and enrollment summaries. We will review these reports with Client on an as needed basis and will identify and discuss trends and potential problems.
- Provide cost projections and funding analysis (review of funding methodology with emphasis on employer costs and the tier structure of the contribution.)
- When marketing your plans, prepare an analysis comparing current costs, plan designs, administration costs, network discounts and network accessibility.
- With respect to the renewal process, we will conduct an annual review during the renewal process to include negotiations, on Clients' behalf, with current vendors/carriers, as per Client's request.
- Upon the request of Client, we will assist Client in the preparation of a RFP for purposes of obtaining competitive quotes from the marketplace. We will be the primary point of contact during the bidding process.
- Upon request of Client, evaluate and assist in the management of voluntary benefit products offered to Client's employees.

- Assist Client in the implementation of the benefit program by dealing with vendor/carriers and performing contract and SPD review for purposes of determining conformity to agreed upon plan provisions and costs.
- Advise Client with respect to available technology platforms to support delivery and administration of its employee benefit plans.
- Assist Client in the development of paper and/or web-based communication strategies.
- Coordinate the collection of Schedule A information for Form 5500 filings.
- Identify and negotiate on the Client's behalf with insurers and other benefit program providers and keep the Client informed of significant developments. We shall be authorized for purposes of this Agreement to represent and assist the Client in all discussions and transactions with all insurers/providers, provided that we shall not place any insurance or vendor programs on behalf of the Client unless so authorized by the Client.
- Assist with documentation and other steps to obtain commitments for and implement insurance policies and other services selected by the Client regarding its employee benefits program upon the Client's instructions, it being understood that we will not independently verify or authenticate information not originating from us necessary to prepare proposals or underwriting submissions and other documents relied upon by insurers/providers, and the Client shall be solely responsible for the accuracy and completeness of such information and other documents furnished to us and/or insurers/providers and shall sign any application for coverage. The Client understands that the failure to provide all necessary information to an insurer, employee benefit provider or third party vendor whether intentional or by error, could result in the impairment or voiding of coverage or service.
- Provide Client access to the national insurance marketplace and related services marketplace and use our commercially reasonable efforts to place insurance policies and other services selected by the Client regarding its employee benefit program on behalf of the Client, if so instructed by the Client.
- Act as a liaison between the Client and insurers/ providers for the lines of coverage and services that we have placed or obtained on behalf of Client or for which Mercer is named as the broker of record.
- Provide the Client with detailed invoices, except in the case of direct billing by insurers or employee benefits providers.
- Follow up with insurance carriers/providers for timely issuance of policies and contracts.
- Follow up with insurance carriers/providers with respect to the payment or return premiums.
- Review policies and contracts for accuracy and conformity to specifications provided by Client and the related negotiated coverages.

- Assist the Client in connection with issues relating to interpretation of insurance policies/contracts placed by us.
- Provide information/coverage summaries for all new coverages and updates on changes to existing coverages.

AGENDA

ITEM

NO. 4

PORTNEUF

RIVER

VISION STUDY

City Council guidance sought:

1. Adopt resolution supporting the Vision Plan?
2. Direct Public Works to allocate sufficient staff resources to develop an implementation plan, secure funds, and implement the Vision?



Vision Process

Milestones:

Project Kickoff – Summer 2015

Existing conditions Inventory and Stakeholder Assessment – Fall 2015

Working Group Meetings Begin – Fall 2015

Public Outreach & Engagement – Winter 2016 through Summer 2016

Draft Vision Study – Fall 2016

Vision Study Completion and Adoption – Winter 2016



Public Involvement

- **Working Group** of 26 local landowners, scientists, engineers & planners
- **20 separate presentations** to 650+ community members
- **4 outreach fairs/events**
- **2 separate surveys** filled out by 1,000+ community members
- **3 Open Houses** with 150+ attendees
- **TV and Newspaper ads; door hangers and direct mail**

PORTNEUF RIVER
VISION STUDY

What's YOUR vision for the Portneuf River?

How can we restore the Portneuf River in the Pocatello area and enhance the tourism, economic development, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and other quality of life benefits that the Portneuf River provides?

The City of Pocatello needs your input!

1. THIS SATURDAY
January 23rd, 10-11 a.m.
Veteran's Memorial Building,
300 N. Johnson.
20 min. presentation followed by Q/A and opportunities to provide comment.

2. NEXT MONTH
Tuesday February 9th, 4-7 p.m.
Pocatello Community Charter School
995 S. Arthur.
Open house with 10 minute presentations every hour beginning at 4:15, and opportunities to provide comment.

3. ONLINE anytime!
Learn more, take a survey and submit comments. **Participate by FEB 9th!**
<http://river.pocatello.us>

Portneuf River Vision Study

The City of Pocatello seeks to develop a new vision for the Portneuf River as it runs through our valley, from the Gap to the Reservation boundary.

How can we restore the Portneuf River and enhance the tourism, economic development, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and other quality of life benefits that the Portneuf River provides?

 **Start Here**
Learn the basics about the Portneuf River

 **Comment**
Submit your comments on the Portneuf River

<http://river.pocatello.us>



About

FAQs

Portneuf Basics

Portneuf in Depth

Challenges & Opportunities

Comment

The Vision

Portneuf River Vision Study

Portneuf River Visioning Project 2015

Portneuf River Basics

Watershed Tour

Water Quality and Habitat

Recreation

Restoration Examples

Historic Pictures

Flood Control Project

Flood History

Portneuf River 1959 and today

Portneuf in 3D



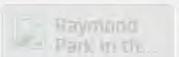
1891

PORTNEUF MEANDERS

Panoramic view of Pocatello in the area that is now Raymond Park and Irving MS. The historic floodplain (which the river would flood every couple of years) is evident. The higher part of town was built on top of the Bonneville flood boulders, generally above the river's floodplain.

Idaho State University,

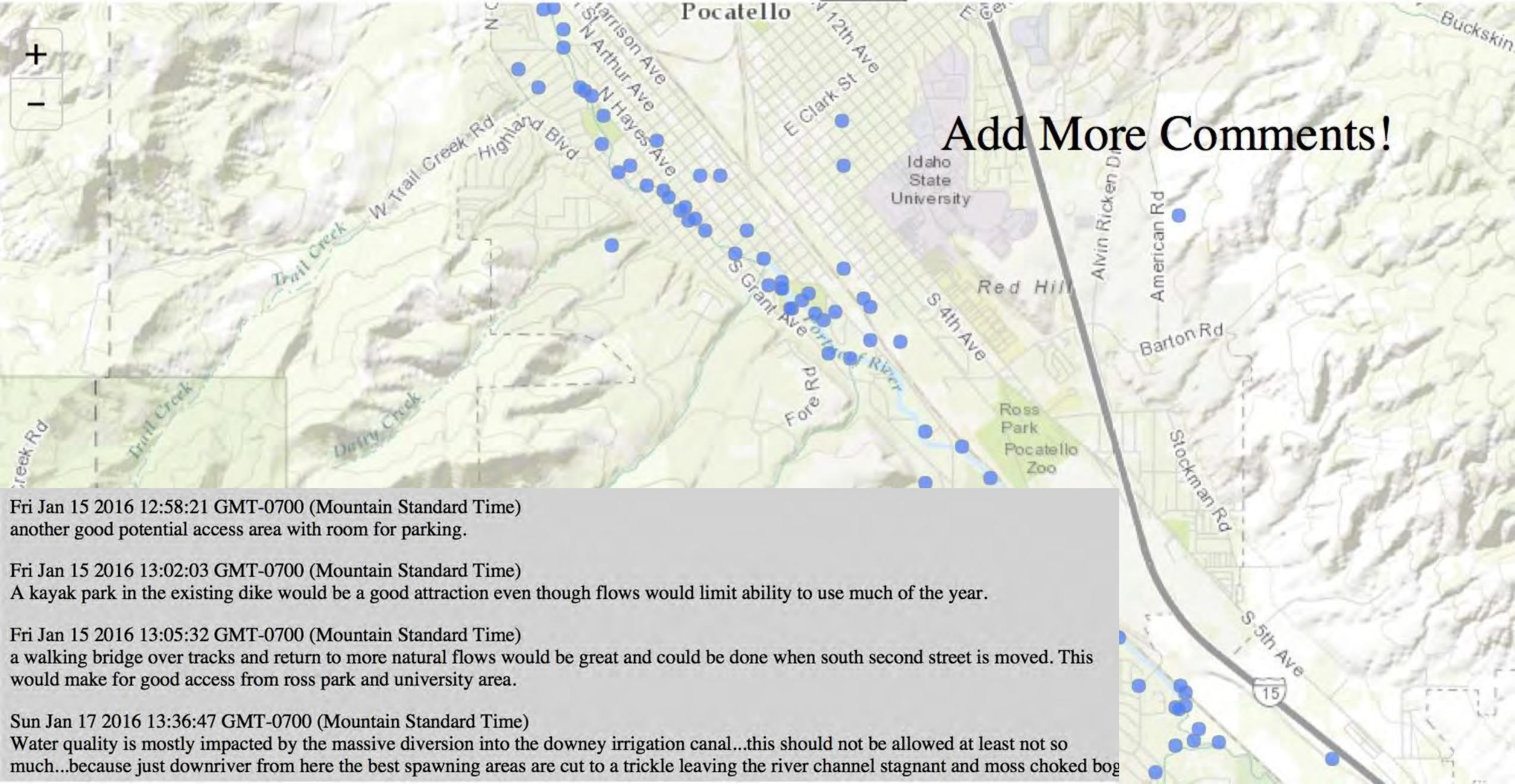
c. 1891. Looking east across the Portneuf in Pocatello. St. Joseph's Catholic Church with walled compound in middle ground (right side of pic).



Community Feedback

List of comments ([read.html](#))

[Charts](#)



Add More Comments!

Fri Jan 15 2016 12:58:21 GMT-0700 (Mountain Standard Time)
another good potential access area with room for parking.

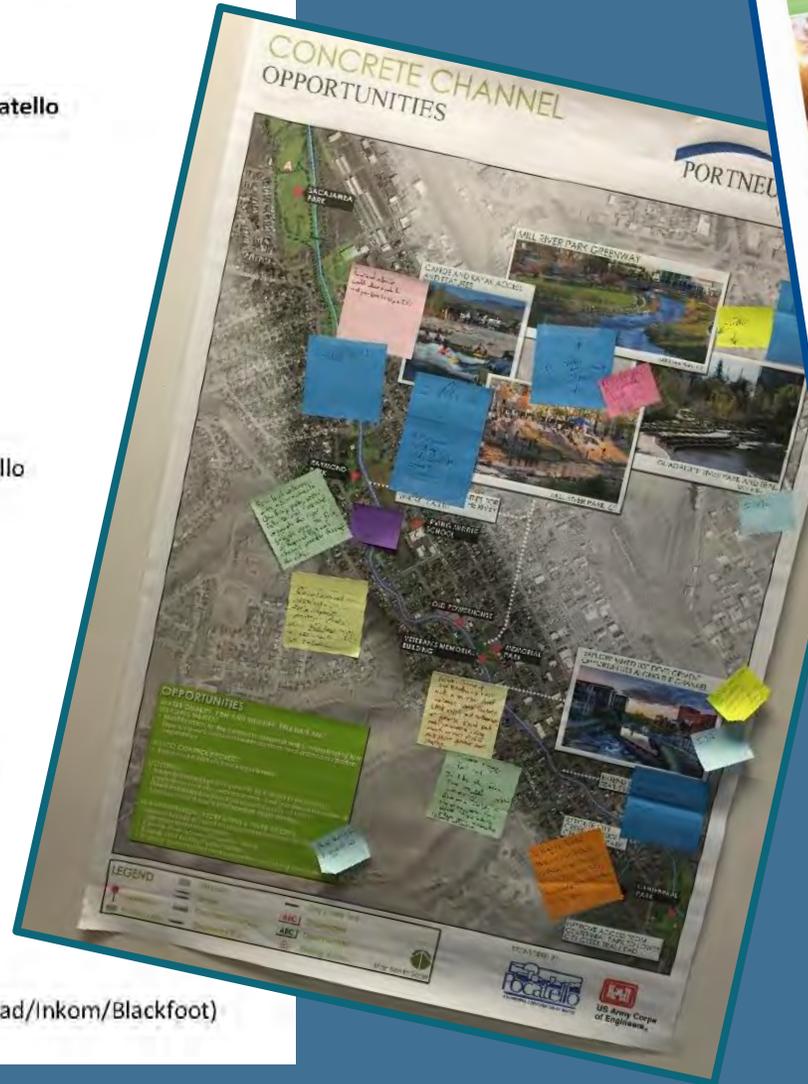
Fri Jan 15 2016 13:02:03 GMT-0700 (Mountain Standard Time)
A kayak park in the existing dike would be a good attraction even though flows would limit ability to use much of the year.

Fri Jan 15 2016 13:05:32 GMT-0700 (Mountain Standard Time)
a walking bridge over tracks and return to more natural flows would be great and could be done when south second street is moved. This would make for good access from ross park and university area.

Sun Jan 17 2016 13:36:47 GMT-0700 (Mountain Standard Time)
Water quality is mostly impacted by the massive diversion into the downey irrigation canal...this should not be allowed at least not so much...because just downriver from here the best spawning areas are cut to a trickle leaving the river channel stagnant and moss choked bog

Current neighborhood:

- 8% Alameda, Pocatello
- 7% Bannock Hwy/S. Grant/Indian Hills, Pocatello
- 1% Bonneville, Pocatello
- 8% Chubbuck
- 10% College (Lower University), Pocatello
- 3% E. Center, Pocatello
- 10% Highland, Pocatello
- 5% Johnny Creek, Pocatello
- 16% Old Town, Pocatello
- 1% Lewis and Clark, Pocatello
- 5% Mink Creek/Gibson Jack, Pocatello
- 0.4% Northgate, Pocatello
- 2% OK Ward, Pocatello
- 0.4% South Park, Pocatello
- 3% South Pocatello
- 1% Syringa/El Rancho, Pocatello
- 5% Upper University, Pocatello
- 4% West Bench, Pocatello
- 1% Whittier, Pocatello
- 2% Other (Fort Hall/Idaho Falls/Malad/Inkom/Blackfoot)



IMAGINE THE CONCRETE CHANNEL YEARS FROM NOW...

Rank the following photos of possible parks, trails and shopping areas. 4 questions
 Rank the following photos from Love it! (+3) to Hate it! (-3)

Trails along the concrete channel (question 1 of 4)

- 1. Trail next to concrete channel: -0.7
- 2. Trail covering the concrete channel: -0.5
- 3. Trail within concrete channel: +1.1
- 4. Trail within concrete channel with natural elements: -0.2
- 5. Trail within concrete channel with grass: +1.5
- 6. Trail within concrete channel with natural elements: +2.3

COMMENT SUMMARY

- Feasibility of various options? What is actually realistic given local conditions (economic and environmental. Including flooding and land ownership constraints). Photos are too urban for Pocatello. Concerns about cost for all options – and long-term/short-term maintenance.
- Trails need to be designed to accommodate commuters as well as slower recreational traffic.
- Perceived and actual safety of options

Residents generally preferred options, including one or more of the following:

- Showing physical access to the river, as well as places to sit and watch the river.
- Containing natural elements.
- Looking manicured/neat with green grass.
- Looking like it can handle flooding.
- Improved the aesthetics of the concrete channel.

In particular, comments about each of the images noted:

Option 1 Disliked for lack of river access and maintaining existing concrete channel - why would anyone want to look at the existing concrete channel? Like having a trail - and like that you can see the water from the trail.

Option 2 Where is the river? Commenters noted that they want to see and be close to the river. Like the trail.

Option 3 Too much concrete. Need trees for shade. Like the trail plus access to the river. Like the more natural looking bottom.

Option 4 Most didn't like that this would keep the concrete channel – why would anyone want to look at the existing concrete channel? Like the shade; like having a trail. Concerns about creating pigeon habitat. Need to consider visual impacts of this on adjacent properties.

Option 5 Liked by most. Would have ranked higher if this option showed physical access to the river. Like having a grassy parkway along the river. Concerns about maintenance/watering costs. Wish that it had less concrete/natural riverbanks.

Option 6 Loved because it contains the most natural elements/wildlife habitat – as well as a meandering river. Shows access to the river and places to sit as well as a trail. Wish that it had less concrete.



Residents' top priorities:

1. Water Quality & Ecosystem Health
2. Recreation and Access

Significant concerns & constraints

1. Levees and concrete channel are US Army Corps of Engineers projects
2. Historic winter flooding
3. Limited summer water flow
4. Upstream water quality is poor
5. Limited public property along the river
6. Cost of implementation
7. Cost of maintenance

CONCRETE CHANNEL

Potential Project Areas

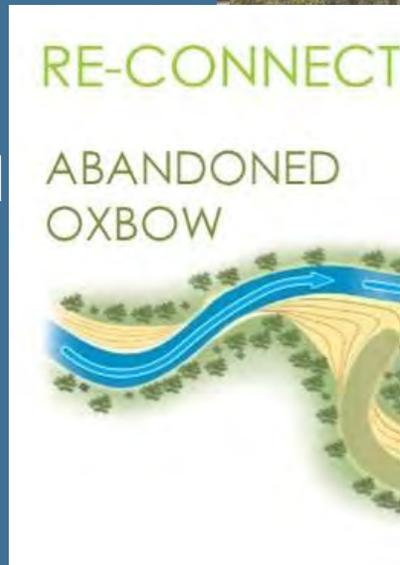


What are your favorite short-term and long term projects?



PRIORITY SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

1. Water Trail and River Cleanup
2. Streambank Restoration
3. Rainey – Centennial Park
4. Sacajawea Park
5. Signage and Wayfind



PRIORITY LONG-TERM PROJECTS

1. Greenway Extension

2. Historic Meanders

3. Levee Setbacks

4. Concrete Channel Str
Restoration & Greenway

5.Center St. Riverfront
Shopping Area

6.Memorial Park

7.Raymond Park

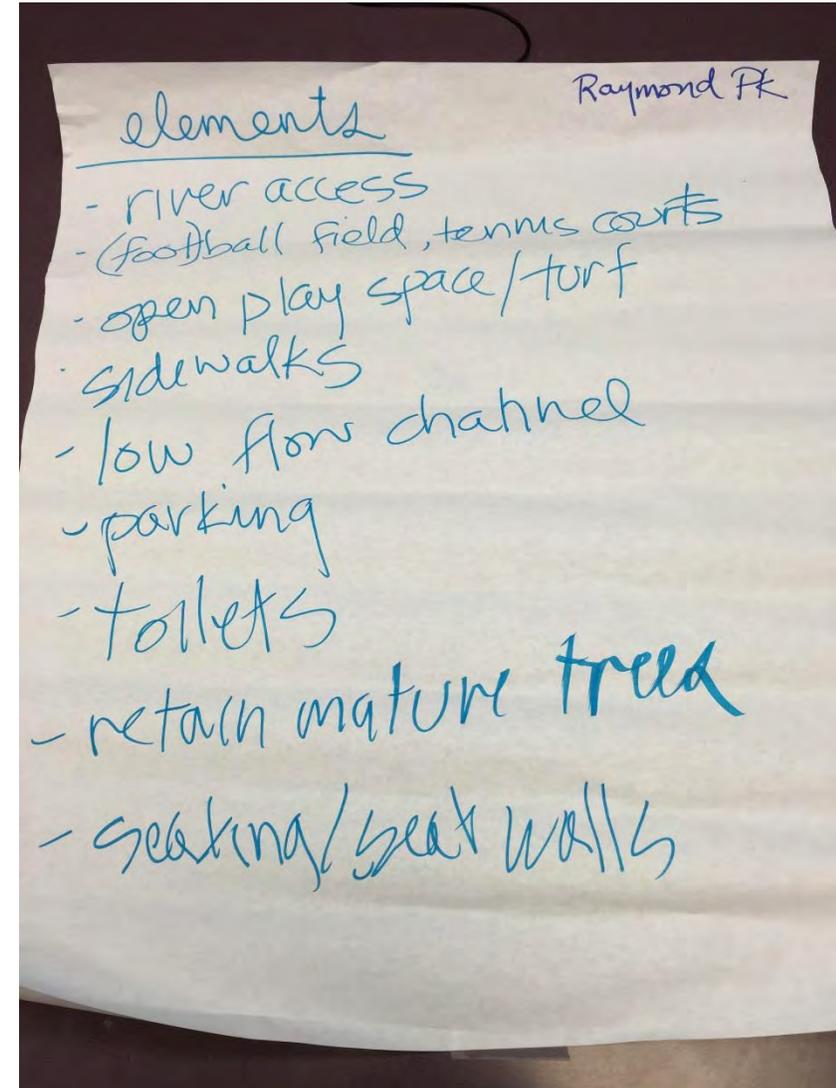
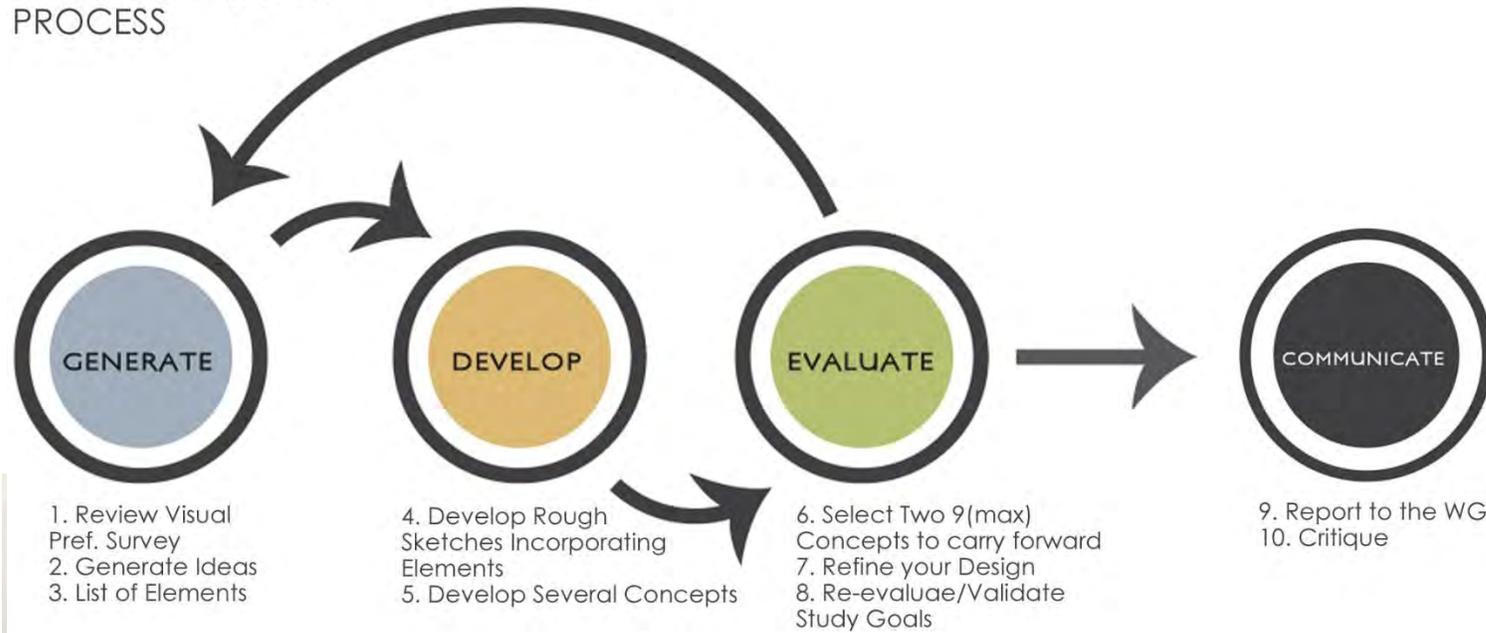


ADDITIONAL PRIORITY PROJECTS

1. Seek Levee Vegetation Variance
2. Develop Portneuf River Zoning Overlay District
3. Reassess Flood Control Project Capacity Requirements
4. Reduce Volume of Urban Runoff Reaching the Portneuf
5. Increase In-Stream Flows
6. Identify and Purchase Greenway Easements and Flood Prone Homes from Willing Sellers
7. Improve Upstream Water Quality

Community Design Process

DESIGN CHARRETTE PROCESS

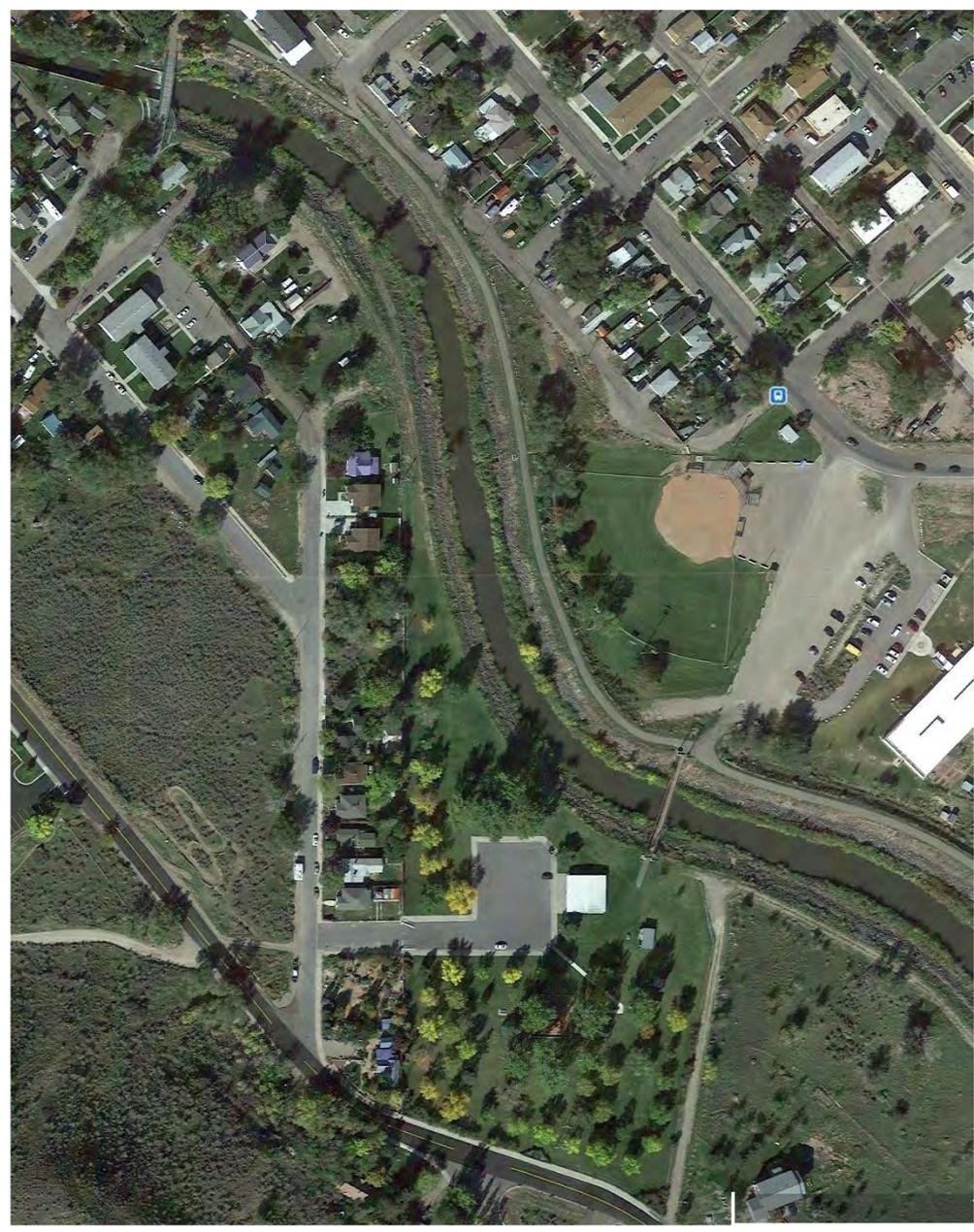




IMAGINE

A HEALTHY AND VIBRANT
CENTENNIAL PARK

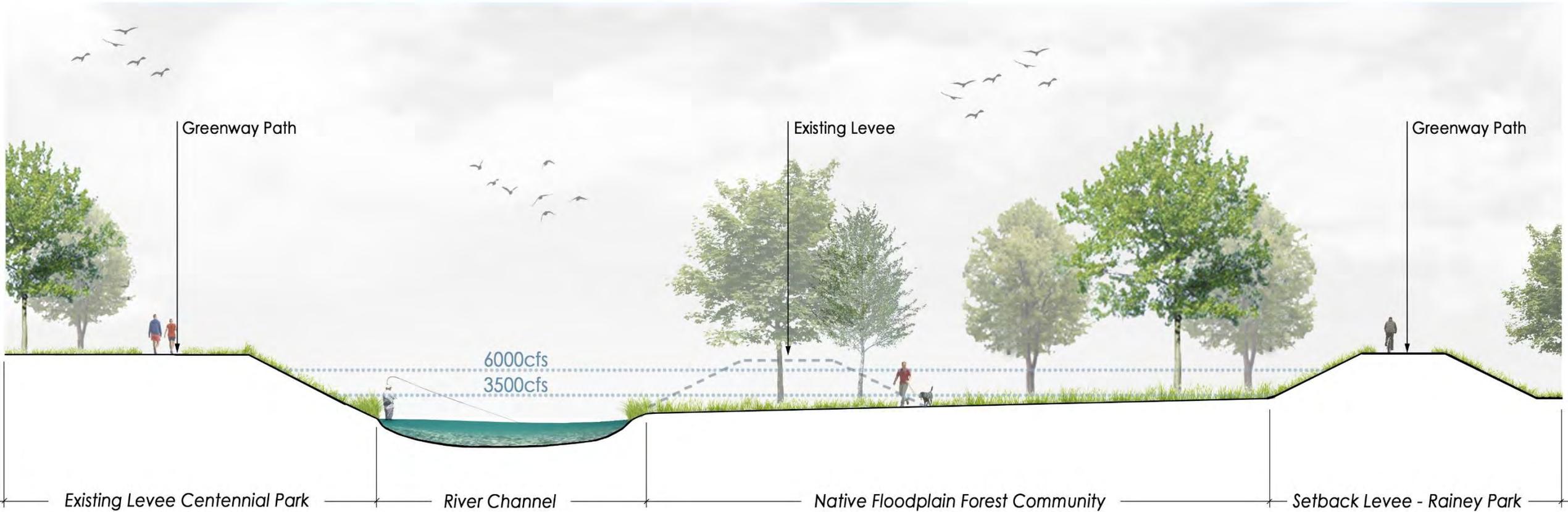
Current



Concept



Centennial – Rainey Park Levee Setback Cross Section Concept





Current: Looking Downstream from Centennial Park

Concept: Looking Downstream from Centennial Park





Current: Looking Across the Portneuf
River From Rainey Park

Concept: Looking Across the Portneuf River From Rainey Park

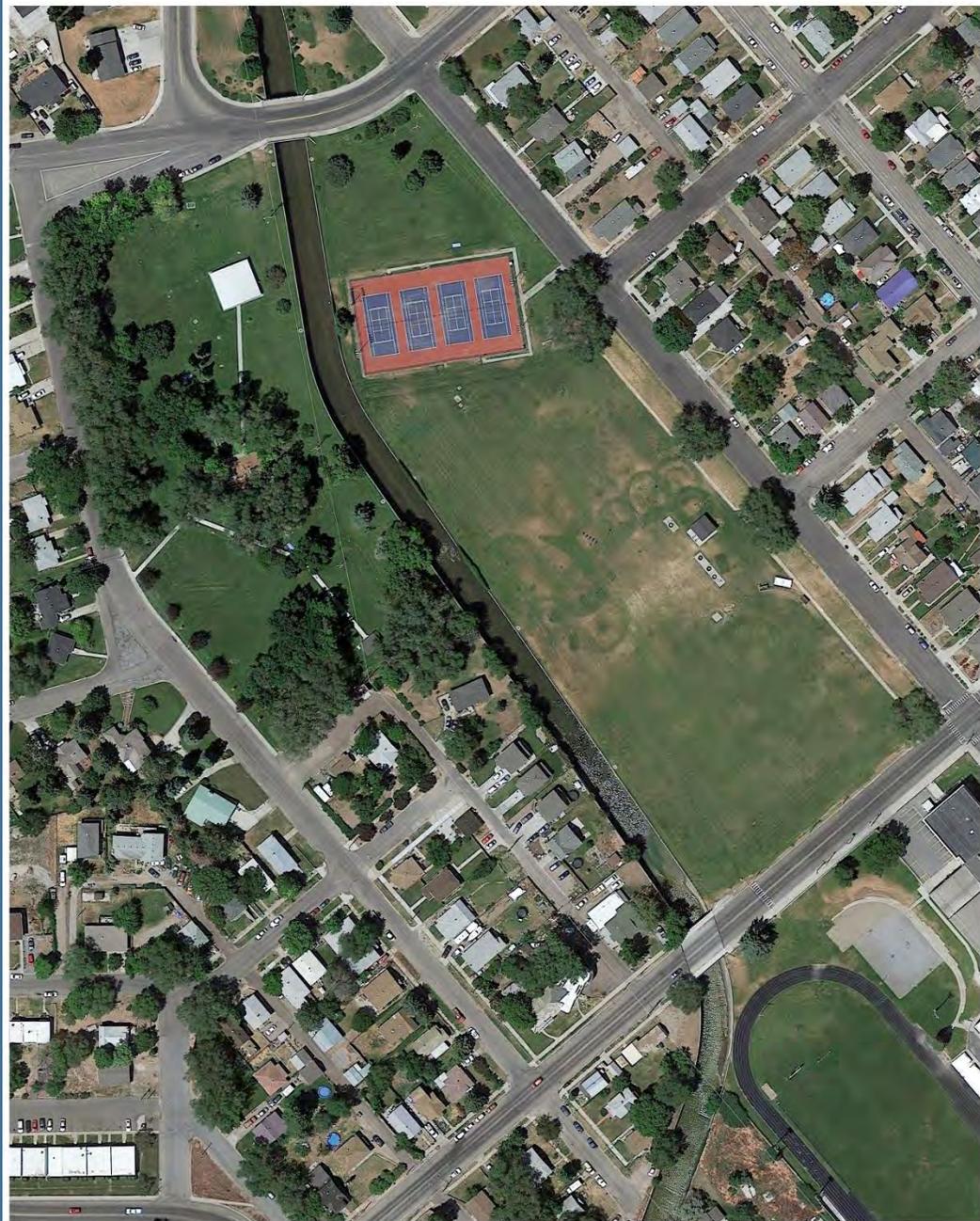




IMAGINE

A HEALTHY AND VIBRANT
RAYMOND PARK

Current

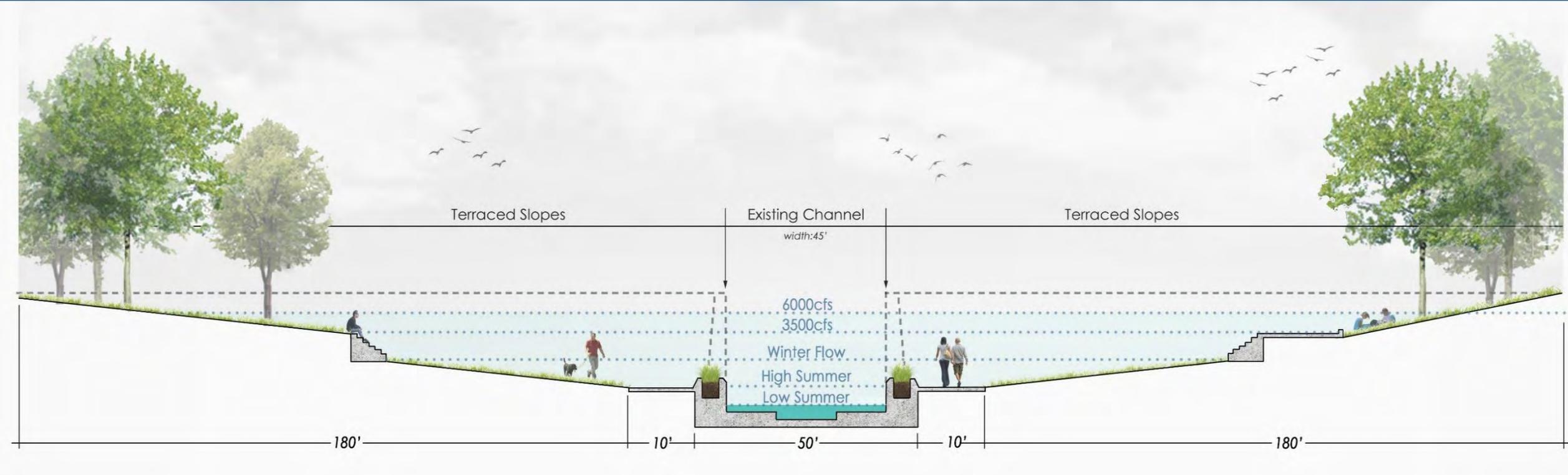


Concept



- ① Water Trail Put-in/Take-out
- ② Amphitheater
- ③ Splash Play Area
- ④ Low Flow Channel
- ⑤ Picnic Shelter and Playground
- ⑥ Existing Restroom
- ⑦ Sports Field

Raymond Park Levee Setback Cross Section Concept



Current: Looking Upstream from Raymond Park



Concept: Looking Downstream From Raymond Park





Raymond Park Water Trail Put-in/Take-out



PORTNEUF RIVER

VISION STUDY **DRAFT**

September 2016

Vision Process

Milestones:

Project Kickoff – Summer 2015

Existing conditions Inventory and Stakeholder Assessment – Fall 2015

Working Group Meetings Begin – Fall 2015

Public Outreach & Engagement – Winter 2016 through Summer 2016

Draft Vision Study – Fall 2016

Vision Study Completion and Adoption – Winter 2016



Acknowledgements

- US Army Corps of Engineers
 - **Project management**
 - **Data analysis and presentation**
 - **Concept analysis and visualizations**
- Idaho State University MILES
 - **Data analysis and 3-D visualizations**
- Vision Study Working Group
 - **Public input review and analysis**
- City of Pocatello Engineering, Planning, Environmental, Public Works and Parks & Recreation staff

Implementation

Underway:

- Trash and debris jam removal near Hoku
- Create a water trail from Sacajawea Park to Simplot
- Gibson Jack Creek culvert improvements
- Ask the Army Corps to revisit flood control capacity & levee vegetation requirements

Next steps:

- Identify the entity that will lead the implementation effort
- Draft an Implementation Plan

Recommendation:

1. City Council adopt resolution supporting the Vision Plan
2. City Council direct Public Works to allocate sufficient staff resources to develop an implementation plan and implement the Vision
3. City Council direct the Mayor to create a Vision Study advisory committee

Questions?

<http://river.pocatello.us>

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF POCATELLO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF IDAHO, ACKNOWLEDGING THE COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT FOR THE PORTNEUF RIVER VISION STUDY'S GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS; APPROVING THE PORTNEUF RIVER VISION STUDY; AND DECLARING THE CITY'S INTENT TO SPEARHEAD IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VISION STUDY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ESTABLISHING A MAYOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND SETTING OUT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITY STAFF TO ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, PRESENT AND FUTURE LAND, EASEMENT AND FUNDING ACQUISITIONS, AND PROJECT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.

WHEREAS, heavy alterations to the Portneuf River corridor over time have compromised the health of this ecosystem and reduced the benefits and services it provides; and

WHEREAS, in April of 2015, the City authorized use of City funds, staff time and other resources to enter into a cooperative effort with the US Army Corps of Engineers to establish a Vision for the Portneuf River from the Portneuf Gap to the Fort Hall Indian Reservation boundary; and

WHEREAS, the the Portneuf River Vision Study integrates existing policies, plans, and innovative ideas into a single vision, outlining goals and recommendations for improved river corridor management, and identifying opportunities for improvements and restoration. Its recommendations are based on the community's ecosystem health, recreation, access, community engagement, and economic development goals; and

WHEREAS, implementation is contingent on voluntary actions by landowners and land managers, future rulemaking, planning, and available funding through various governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and public-private partnership entities. The Vision Study is intended to be a living plan, responsive to evolving scientific understanding and changes in community attitudes and preferences; and

WHEREAS, the Vision Study was a collaborative planning process with significant public input from across the community to ensure that the plan accurately reflects the community's vision for the Portneuf River; and

WHEREAS, thereafter on DATE, a public hearing was held before the City Council regarding the Vision Study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY POCATELLO AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the City Council approves the Portneuf River Vision Study.
2. That the City Council hereby declares its intent to have the City of Pocatello spearhead implementation of the Vision Study's goals and recommendations, as funding and other resources allow.
3. That the City Council directs the Mayor to establish a Portneuf River Vision Study Implementation advisory committee and directs the Public Works Department to allocate necessary staff resources to coordinate and manage implementation of the Vision Study.

RESOLVED this ____ day of _____, 2016

CITY OF POCATELLO, a municipal
corporation of Idaho