

Idaho Community Review

2000 to 10.25.2005



2006-Stanley ○

St. Maries ○

Malad ○

Ashton ●

Kuna ●

Rexburg ●

Salmon ●

Emmett ●

Buhl ●

Weiser ●

Priest River ●

Hayden ●

Kooskia ●

Jerome ●

2000-Heyburn ●

Preface and Overview

This document was prepared at the request of the Idaho Rural Partnership. Its purpose is to provide a brief snapshot of community reviews completed up to October 2005. Although subsequent reviews have been conducted in Malad, St. Maries, and Stanley, we do not as yet have follow-up data on post-review accomplishments or responses.

Our intent is to update and expand this document to increase understanding of the impact and outcome of the community review process.

The *Idaho Community Review* (ICR) process addresses a need among rural communities to manage and direct inevitable change in a positive and sustainable fashion. The aim has always been to hold up a mirror that reflects what visitors see and hear, providing an informed and objective point of view. Community residents and leaders tell us where they've been, where they are and where they want to go. Visiting Team members combine these local perspectives with their collective working knowledge and direct observations, and then outline recommendations and resources that can put each community on the road to success. Following two intensive 14-hour days in the community, visiting team members create and deliver a substantial report of their findings and recommendations.

The content, layout and design of this working document are a testament of the public-private partnership that makes the Community Review process successful in Idaho. The host communities provided the respective information to Lora Ulrich of the USDA-Farm Service Agency, who wrote the report. Erik Kingston of the Idaho Housing and Finance Association provided editing, layout and pre-press support. Qwest, Idaho National Laboratory and Monsanto provided funding for printing and distribution.

Community reviews are made possible through the significant investment of human-capital and in-kind contributions by federal and state agencies, tribes, cities and counties and the business community. Each review is valued at \$60,000 - \$70,000. Communities only provide food and transportation. Rural Idaho has access to top professionals in a variety of fields at a minimal cost because of the public-private partnership that *is* the Community Review.

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1.19.2007

Ashton, Idaho 10.25.2005

County: Fremont

Review Date: October 25-27, 2005

Description: Ashton is a community of 1,100 residents. It is known as the “Gateway to Yellowstone”. The community of Ashton requested assistance with three core areas:

- Arts, Historic & Recreation Resources
- Community Design & Identity
- Land Use Planning

Challenges

- Infrastructure.* planning and zoning ordinances;
- History & Heritage.* Hess Heritage Museum knowledge known by Hess Family mainly
- Tourism Development.* lack of signage; no town museum; Visitor's Center & information kiosk not maximized or maintained; inadequate lodging and inconsistent customer-service
- Recreation, Arts & Cultural Resources.* lack of parks and recreation department; ball diamond rarely used; lack of adult education classes; lack of availability of arts & culture
- Lack of activities for Youth.* No entertainment or social events
- Community.* Lacks unified identity; no common theme or understanding of what it has to offer;

Strengths and Assets

- Public Facilities.* new high school; state of the art nursing home and new emergency services building. Appealing storefronts along Main street; Hess Heritage Museum and Ashton Archives;
- Community.* low crime rate; good atmosphere to raise family; relaxed atmosphere; charm
- People.* caring & friendly; dedicated community leaders; at least one farm-based bed and breakfast;
- Location.* beautiful scenery; great recreational options; gateway to outdoors

Top Priorities

- Communication.* Continued and improved relations among city, county and other leaders; county planning and zoning and city planning and zoning commission need closer communication; encourage other community organization to appoint liaisons members to attend city council and vice-versa; provide customer service classes to employees.
- Community Identity.* solicit input from community; establish unified identity considering the many-facets; use identity as basis for marketing;
- Long-Term Strategic Planning.* Schedule planning meetings with combined planning commissions and political entities to address long-term vision; capitalize on current assets; expand & develop existing amenities;
- Partnerships.* Establish working partnerships to market identity; work with area chambers of commerce to market the area and increase economic development

Accomplishments

- Launched city web page
- Created Ashton area Chamber of Commerce newsletter
- Selected four members for Youth Council
- City Council and Gem Team have grown and are presenting new ideas
- Working in conjunction with railroad to bring tourists
- Working on the arts and historic restoration of buildings in Ashton



Kuna, Idaho 3.7.2005

County: ADA

Review Date: March 7-9, 2005

Description: Kuna is a community of 12,600 residents. It is known as the Gateway City to the Birds of Prey National Habitat area. The community of Kuna requested assistance in three core areas:

- Improve Civic Life & Community Involvement
- Community Design and Infrastructure
- Local Economic Development.

Challenges

- Civic Life & Community Involvement.* Cost of living, health care, social resources for residents, including seniors. Special educational and recreational needs of youth. Lack of multigenerational involvement attendance at events;
- Faith community.* Lack of communication among denominations; rapid growth stretching support resources.
- Education.* Lack of availability for higher education courses; 3rd fastest growing school district;
- Community Infrastructure.* Zoning ordinances; rapid growth & change; growing bicycle and walking usage on highway and streets; lack of parks and recreational facilities; limited viable industrial land
- Local Economic Development.* Lack of jobs with adequate wages & benefits; lack of retail stores, health care, and entertainment opportunities
- Lack of Promotion.* Signage; difficult web site; proximity to Boise;

Strengths and Assets

- People.* Civic engagement or 'Kunity' a strong sense of pride & unity; Volunteer services from senior citizens and youth; bright & civic minded youth; friendly
- Community.* small-town atmosphere; safe; quiet; good schools, library and fire station; great place to raise family; agricultural heritage and surrounding landscape
- Public Works/Infrastructure.* First-rate facilities and potable water system; positive working relationship between Mayor/Council and Chamber of Commerce.
- Tourism.* Visitor's Center Museum; Snake River Birds of Prey Conservation Area; Swan Falls Dam & Museum; Pioneer Cemetery and the Western Heritage Byway.

Top Priorities

- Land Use.* Downtown strategy; residential and mixed-use development
- Connectivity.* Social/cultural connectivity ; physical connectivity (ease of travel); and economic connectivity.
- Maintain identity for community.* develop a central theme; guard against leapfrog development; attract businesses; minimum standards for open space to avoid unusable space
- Increase awareness of local businesses.* Publish complete directory of businesses; produce map; use joint marketing;

Accomplishments

- Citizens Action Committee has been appointed. Reviewed and recommended sewer treatment plant sites. Committee has met with Home Team members to discuss relevant issues.
- Economic Development meetings have been held and objectives set.
- Civic Life meeting held
- Kuna Library will have the community bulletin board
- Educational partnership with Boise State University to establish Kuna as an educational center for professional, technical and enrichment courses. Classes will begin after Labor Day 2006.
- Feasibility study completed for bringing in a Boys and Girls Club. Two potential sites have been located and work is being done toward kicking off the capital campaign.
- Initiation of a Recreation District to include a golf course and swimming pool.
- Greater cooperation between the school district and city of Kuna to establish an education site for post- high school continuing educational opportunities.
- Chamber of Commerce has taken on the efforts to unify the community



Rexburg, Idaho 9.8.2004

County: MADISON

Review Date: September 8-10, 2004

Description: Rexburg is a community of 24,733 residents. It is located in Eastern Idaho. The community of Rexburg requested assistance with three core areas:

- Land Use Planning
- Community Design and Identity
- Civic Life & Community Involvement

Challenges

- Infrastructure.* sprawling multi-family housing projects; insufficient land zoned for industrial use; annexation policies; growth management; lack of downtown parking and tourist amenities;
- Community.* need to channel energy of youth; mobilize senior citizens; communicate with citizens;
- Lack of retail stores. mainly have box stores
- Lack of Community Promotion- entrances into city lacking;
- Economic.* business vitality; downtown revitalization

Strengths and Assets

- Land Use planning.* strong traditional street grid; good mix of housing options; clustered civic buildings; public satisfaction with public services and recreational opportunities
- Quality of Life.* good environment to raise children; progressive community leadership; natural beauty; well-educated, hardworking citizens; cultural events
- People.* friendly; caring, proud

Top Priorities

- Strengthen communication at many levels - citizens to elected leader; city to University; student to full-time resident and within the faith community
- Increase commitment & quality of public involvement
- Development in the area of City Impact – zoning, mixed use zoning
- Economic Development and revitalization of downtown area
- Development of city brand/theme
- Explore items for better city government

Accomplishments

- Actively engaged in updating comprehensive plan
- Adopted Development Code (Smart Growth of Idaho Award)
- Hiring planning consultant jointly with Sugar City, Madison County and BYU
- Added new trails along river corridor; expanded
- Urban Renewal District; working on master recreation and trail plan along the Teton River.
- Received Community Development Block Grant to create downtown square
- Added design standards for all commercial and multi family development
- Updated logo, slogan and publication design standards
- Installed entryway & park signage at Smith Park & Roundabout
- Added street benches & waste receptacles downtown
- Strengthened Mayor's Youth Advisory Board
- Created community website
- Developed several new annual community events
- Started Rexburg 101; teaches community about local government
- Opened Rexburg Splash Park
- Have an annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception



Salmon, Idaho 5.12.2004

County: LEMHI

Review Date: May 12-14, 2004

Description: Salmon is a community of 3,300 residents. It is nestled in the mountains of central Idaho. The community of Salmon requested assistance in three core areas:

- Civic Life & Community Involvement
- Community Design, Identity & Land Use
- Economic Development & Infrastructure

Challenges

- Economy.* Insufficient job opportunities; housing affordability;
- Education.* Loss of elective classes; transportation for school activities; inadequate disability access; declining enrollment
- Community.* Hospitality varies; identity; high school mascot; lack of marketing; physical appearance in residential area; youth not returning
- Infrastructure.* Managing annexation & development within Area of Impact; residential growth outside of city limits;

Strengths and Assets

- Cultural Assets.* River of No Return; Sacagawea Center; Gold Rush; railroad, logging & cowboys;
- Historical Museum;
- Community.* Forward-thinking leaders; attractive downtown; commercial development maintained downtown; few vacancies on Main Street; senior citizens talent & experience;
- Services.* Outdoor family opportunities; alternative school; excellent after school program;

Top Priorities

- Develop a youth/senior advisory council
- Enhance city center identity
- Design Review Ordinance
- Consider Parks & Recreation Director
- Educate Public on importance of comprehensive plan
- Address affordability of housing, quality standards and downtown residential opportunities
- Develop clearinghouse for volunteerism. senior citizen center
- Use Transportation Plan as action tool

Accomplishments

- Comprehensive Planning Studies & action items: Topographic Mapping, Soils and Hydrology mapping; Wildland Urban Interface study; storm water study; water management study; Conference Center Feasibility Study; preliminary architectural plan for arts and cultural center; pedestrian bridge engineering, permitting, and planning; conceptual kayak course plan completed; brown fields petroleum cleanup award, site assessment and planning; Salmon River & Sacajawea historic byways corridor plan (in progress); biofuels study (in progress); established Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC); Abandoned Vehicle Enforcement plan developed
- Water Treatment Plant Upgrade (\$6.2mil)
- Pollard Creek Water Line replacement (\$180K)
- Completion of Phase 1 Sacajawea Center Projects (\$100K)
- Airport Expansion (fencing, hangers, runway extension))
- Youth Center (Lemhi Coalition)
- ABC Task Force established and funding Resource Officer and drug and alcohol programs
- All weather High School track and stadium upgrades completed (\$200k)
- Refrigeration system installed in Salmon Hockey Rink
- Skate Park completed
- Island Park Restroom planning and funding
- Hospital completed and operational
- Funded and developed summer camp program
- Expanded storm water collection system in downtown area
- Established Volunteer of the Year recognition program
- Funding resulting from the Community Review visiting team recommendations: Idaho Commission on the Arts (Gazebo Funding); ICF funding for Hockey Rink improvements
- Leadership growth and development that has materialized since the Community Review visit: Citizen Planning Committees; Recreation Advisory Committee; youth "Peer Helper" program; Opportunity for teacher and student to attend the 100 Best Communities Workshops

Emmet, Idaho 5.20.2003

County: GEM

Review Date: May 20-21, 2003

Description: Emmett is a community of 5,980 residents. The community of Emmett requested assistance in the following three core areas:

- Infrastructure relating to transportation & communication
- Community land use planning & design
- Civic Life & Community Involvement

Challenges

- Infrastructure.* Several highway concerns
- Community.* Multigenerational involvement & participation; educational opportunities
- Lack of Job opportunity.* Job training; variety; availability; quality;
- Lack of Economic development.* lack of hotels/motels; City leaders not involved; tension within chamber of commerce and downtown businesses;
- Youth.* Sr. High school facility; unsuitable recreation center hours; lack of involvement;
- Senior Citizen Center.* decline in participation; financial strain; image problem

Strengths and Assets

- Public Services.* fire protection; garbage collection; community parks & playgrounds; water supply; banking services; housing; ambulance services & hospitals

Top Priorities

- Develop regional industrial park
- Develop a city/county cultural plan to enhance cultural assets
- Update Emmett & Gem County Comprehensive Plan
- Expansion of public transportation
- Utilize wastewater treatment plant to attract industry
- Improve atmosphere at High School; create youth-adult task force for solutions
- Increase signage for Sr. Citizen Center & involve seniors in volunteering for community service

Accomplishments

- Increased communication & collaboration between city and county
- Community development organizations have taken progress on the industrial park & downtown corridor/Island Park Bridge projects to new levels through increased collaboration and dialogue with resource agencies
- Gem Economic Development Association hosted a roundtable discussion between local organizations involved in economic & community development . This resulted in increased commitment to regional strategic planning, communication and collaboration.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters organizers met with United Way of Treasure Valley; United Ways leaders met with Gem Co. Board of Commissions which resulted in the Commissioners receiving a one-time grant to be used to support youth, seniors and community members in need.



Buhl, Idaho 5.13.2002

County: TWIN FALLS

Review Date: May 13-14, 2002

Description: Buhl is a community of 3,900 residents. The town is located in the Magic Valley area. The community of Buhl requested assistance with three core areas:

- Local Economic Development
- Housing
- Education

Challenges

- Economy.* Business climate for retention of businesses; empty storefronts; lack of cohesive vision; odors from industrial plants
- Housing.* Absence of suitable, affordable housing;
- Education.* existing buildings are older; reputation of local schools;
- Infrastructure.* Zoning; transportation. large tractor-trailer trucks on highway; railroads

Strengths and Assets

- Quality of Life.* Rural lifestyle; access to fishing, hunting, boating & year-round golf; excellent Head Start program;
- Location.* Junction of U.S. Hwy 30/Scenic Byway;
- Workforce.* Locals & migrants with excellent work ethics;
- Economics.* Unique retail stores; several large industrial companies
- Leadership.* Dedicated Mayor, City Council, city employees, Chamber of Commerce with full time director & staff

Top Priorities

- Engage community to discuss & refine vision statement; prioritize & come to consensus on plans; develop goals
- Secure bi-lingual interpreters
- Increase communication among leadership teams
- Build identity & pride

Accomplishments

- Hired Community Service Officer. targets weeds, junk cars; dogs; entrance
- Downtown revitalization complete; will finish entrance Spring 2007
- Completed Handicap Accessibility in downtown
- New High School. bond passed
- Five subdivisions with mid-priced homes have been completed or under construction
- Passed two bonds: Arsenic removal; sewer upgrade
- Closed old junior high and moved those students to old high school
- Performing Arts stage in park
- Heated Swimming Pool
- After school programs in place
- Boys and Girls club being built as a joint venture with school district
- Pre K program
- Built the best Skate Park in southern Idaho
- Attracted new furniture store; used clothing store and currently talking with restaurant
- Low Commercial building availability in town
- Elder housing in place
- Working with ITD to revitalize Hwy 30
- City entries cleaned and improved



Weiser, Idaho 3.12.2002

County: WASHINGTON

Review Date: March 12-13, 2002

Description: Weiser is a community of 5,343 residents. It is located along the Weiser River in Western Idaho. The community of Weiser requested assistance with three core areas:

- Land Use Planning
- Local Economic Development
- Civic Life & Community Involvement

Challenges

- Community.* No enforcement of city codes & property standards;
- Infrastructure.* Water & sewer service to industrial area; suitable zoning;
- Youth.* Lack of recreational activities/entertainment

Strengths and Assets

- Community.* Architecture; dedicated & enthusiastic citizens; Vendome Community Center;
- Pythian Castle; Depot;
- Quality of Life.* Residents have passion, sense of community identity; small town atmosphere; safe; friendly; good school system; local hospital; faith based community;
- Economics.* Available industrial properties;

Top Priorities

- Business expansion/retention/recruitment
- Organizational Development
- Form comprehensive preservation strategy
- Develop riverfront & create a "Bridge to Bridge" corridor

Accomplishments

- Bridge to Bridge project has been established as a non-profit entity. Volunteer group meets regularly for planning and fund raising purposes
- Senior Center continuing fund raising efforts for new senior center
- Vendome Events Center completed one year marketing project-included website development newspaper, radio and theater advertising
- Additional soccer fields added at high school
- National Old-time Fiddlers' Contest established non-profit status to obtain funding
- Rails to Trails obtained funding
- Two new retail stores have opened
- Two subdivisions within city
- Lodging feasibility study completed-no need for additional lodging required.



Priest River, Idaho 9.27.2001

County: BONNER

Review Date: Sept. 27-28, 2001

Description: Priest River is a community of 1,877 residents. It is located in Northern Idaho. The community of Priest River requested assistance with three core areas:

- Local Economy
- Community Design & Identity
- Seniors & Youth

Challenges

- Community.* fragmented leadership; no jobs for youth after high school; citizens feel their input is not valued; no senior citizen or public transportation
- Economics.* downtown unable to hold tenants; businesses moving out on highway; downtown deteriorating; lack of signage
- Infrastructure.* old comprehensive plan;
- Lack of activities.* youth must travel out of area for movies; entertainment; no youth center

Strengths and Assets

- Quality of Life.* Healthy & natural; beautiful river; good schools; new library district; outstanding recreational facilities
- Economy.* Able to attract & retain professional city management & competent staff; good business base with more diversity; downtown has character & historical significance;
- Location.* Served by U.S. Highway 2; short line railroad and U.S. Highway 95

Top Priorities

- Update Comprehensive Plan
- Define identity/redefine image
- Explore need for Job Service
- Build on existing partnerships

Accomplishments

- Comprehensive Plan updated and unanimously approved in 2005
- City Council approved the updated Area of City Impact and is submitting to Bonner County Commissioners.
- Approval for residential development
- Approval of developmental fees
- Re-established city police department July 2006
- Discontinued volunteer fire department; contracted services with West Pend O'Reille Fire District
- Library updated
- Bonner West Park progressing
- PRDC & City Council on super move
- Real estate is moving
- Moving forward on test well to provide new source of water



Hayden, Idaho 4.25.2001

County: KOOTENAI

Review Date: April 25-26, 2001

Description: Hayden is a community of 13,000 residents. It is nestled among timbered and sloping shores of Hayden Lake located in Northern Idaho. The community of Hayden requested assistance in three core areas:

- Community Design & Infrastructure
- Land Use Planning
- Civic Life & Community Involvement

Challenges

- Identity.* Uncertain boundaries; intolerant of minorities; local government dysfunctional;
- Infrastructure.* Hodgepodge of land uses;
- Rapid growth.* Low to moderate income housing areas not receiving street upgrades;

Strengths and Assets

- Public Facilities/Services.* Sports facilities; centrally located library; Coeur D'Alene Airport; hospital; doctors;
- Community.* good schools; healthy support system; low crime rate; parental support
- Recreation.* year round activities available;
- Honeysuckle Beach.*

Top Priorities

- Planning/ordinances
- Claim Identity
- Build Consensus
- Invest in the community
- Recognize Diversity
- Think as a Region

Accomplishments

- Comprehensive plan amended
- Phase 1 construction of Government Way and Croffoot Park
- Rathdrum Prairie Wastewater study
- Hayden Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan leading to several youth athletic programs and nearly 2,000 participants annually
- Hayden Sewer Master Plan leading to Wastewater treatment plant upgrade (\$8.3M)
- Hayden Transportation Strategic Plan
- Downtown Strategic Redevelopment Plan
- City Hall renovation
- Satellite sheriff facility
- Hayden Urban Renewal District
- Hayden Days and Symphony on the Sand concert series



Kooskia, Idaho 5.15.2001

County: IDAHO

Review Date: May 15-16, 2001

Description: Kooskia is a community of 660 residents. The community of Kooskia requested assistance with three core areas:

- Infrastructure
- Local Economy
- Community Design & Identity

Challenges

- Infrastructure.* old, undersized water lines; inadequate building permit system; no building codes; lack of enforceable nuisance code;
- Economy.* unattractive entryways; limited public services. telecommunications, mail, freight;

Strengths and Assets

- Public image.* Strong leadership; strong sense of community; good business base; attractive downtown;
- Quality of Life.* Decent park system; slower paced lifestyle; core of creativity & talent; scenic surroundings;
- Community Resources.* Elementary school; library; emergency building;

Top Priorities

- Implement a visioning, study circle or asset mapping process
- Locate resources to improve telecommunications, etc
- Build on idea of Kooskia as regional hub or gateway into Idaho and the Lewis & Clark Trail. regional history, arts, culture -market local arts & crafts
- Improve Tribal & community relations
- Consider a Comprehensive Plan, with zoning & land use planning;

Accomplishments

- Developed comprehensive plan
- Established Technology training center
- Applied for grant money to provide sewer extension from Stites to Kooskia
- DEQ water testing requirements implemented & satisfactorily maintained
- Removed abandoned vehicles from city streets
- Trimmed trees on city streets; added stone litter containers and benches on Main Street
- Completed plan for upgrade and repair of sewer lines
- Established new codes and standards for water, sewer and streets
- Developed and implemented nuisance ordinance
- Received \$40,000 grant for park restrooms and completed new facility
- Developed regional transportation plan
- Received funding for wastewater upgrade project



Jerome, Idaho 3.1.2001

County: JEROME

Review Date: March 1-2, 2001

Description: Jerome is a community of 8,300 residents. The town is located in “Magic Valley”. The community requested assistance with three core areas:

- Infrastructure
- Land Use & Community Design
- Civic Life & Community Involvement

Challenges

- Cultural.* Racial tension; hate crimes;
- Communication.* City leaders not communicating with citizens

Strengths and Assets

- Community.* Progressive, forward-looking, strong leadership base; steady growth rate; well established industries & dedicated employers
- People.* Caring; friendly; supportive; youth are energetic & have enthusiasm for being active and participating in civic life
- Location.* Multiple interstate exits; outdoor hunting & fishing

Top Priorities

- Improve planning on projects shared by City and County
- Rehabilitate Low to Moderate Housing & Revitalize Neighborhoods
- Increase strategic, long-term focus on Water & Sewer Maintenance and
- Develop strategic land use plan for commercial, residential, industrial, and recreational development

Accomplishments

- Completed revision of the City's Comprehensive Plan
- Creation and development of the city's first fully integrated Strategic Plan
- Budgeting efforts with performance measures, workload indicators linked to Strategic Plan
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan completed
- Master Transportation Plan & Gateway Enhancement planning are ongoing
- Secured funding for sewer line construction to Crossroads
- Crossroads project is currently under construction
- Development of Citizen Advisory committee on significant capital project



Heyburn, Idaho 9.28.2000

County: MINIDOKA

Review Date: Sept. 28-29, 2000

Description: Heyburn is a community of 2,780 residents. It is located along the Snake River in South Central Idaho. The community of Heyburn requested assistance with three core areas:

- Community Design
- Land Use and Transportation
- Riverside Development and the Arts

Challenges

- Lack of Identity.* Heyburn is searching for its identity; bedroom community to Burley; overall poor image; industrial aromas in area; disjointed town; no apparent distinction from Burley
- Lack of enforcement.* Property owners have old cars, weeds and other items which are eyesores.
- Public Relations.* Strained relation with county; other cities and Simplot plant.

Strengths and Assets

- Community.* Wonderful art collection/art center; great people; pond at Exit 208;
- Location.* Snake River frontage; scenic view of mountains; easy access to/from highways and freeway; halfway between Boise and Salt Lake City. Joins Rupert, Burley, and Paul to form Mini-Cassia region.



Top Priorities

- Develop "Sense of Place"/community personality
- Move forward with Art facility-design for more than a museum; use as community facility
- Upgrade comprehensive plan
- Enforce zoning/clean up community
- Complete Transportation Plan
- Additional Improvements at Riverside Park; add signage for park
- Signage for Heyburn at Exits

Accomplishments

- 2001 Idaho Department of Lands grant funded 600 ft. long arboretum along the Snake River at the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce. Features 45 tree specimens.
- 2002 Idaho Parks & Recreation grant funded construction of restroom and shower facility for the RV park.
- 2002 Recreational Trails grant funded bike/pedestrian pathway along the Snake river.
- 2003 Heyburn Economic Development Committee fund-raised and built four park shelters.
- 2003 Waterways Improvement Fund grant funded River Front park landscaping and boat slips.
- 2004 Heyburn Economic Development Committee and regional partners constructed an outdoor amphitheater
- 2004 Loves Fuel Company constructed a truck stop on the north end of the city along Interstate 84. A Carls Jr. restaurant is included in the facility.
- 2004 Burley-Heyburn industrial park created anchored by Gossner Cheese.