

Chapter 8: RECREATION

Discussion

The City of Chubbuck has four major parks: Bicentennial Park, Cotant Park, Mary's Park, and Stuart Park. Recreation demands in Chubbuck are facility-oriented, not program-oriented. People enjoy the out-of-doors, and want their children to be able to play outside safely.

Relevant Vision Statement Component

In the year 2020: The Portneuf River Valley is still a great place to raise a family. The region has a high quality of life with friendly, walkable neighborhoods; easy access to recreational opportunities; and many youth- and family-oriented activities.



New neighborhood parks provide a place for children to play close to home. Recreational bike paths connect new developments with a planned system of trails and routes that traverse the entire region. The recently completed greenway path along the Portneuf River is a popular recreational feature actively used by young and old alike.

Parks and Recreation Mission Statement

Encourage the opportunity for all citizens to achieve a sense of accomplishment, a sense of belonging, and a sense of beauty through the provision of a diversity of parks, open spaces, and recreation programs.

Our Goals

Goal 1: Broaden recreational opportunities.

Chubbuck Vision Elements

1. Pride in belonging to a group
2. Security from disenfranchised youth
3. Community values

Issues addressed

1. Children’s or youth’s needs
2. Paths and Parks
3. Aesthetics — if it results in a good balance of developed areas and open space

Objective 1.1

Maintain existing and future parks.

Policy:

- a. Encourage volunteerism and participation in local recreation programs.
- b. Continue to maintain and develop Cotant Park as the premier community park in the Chubbuck park system, and develop a park of similar stature on the east side of the rail road tracks, possibly in association with the Ellis Elementary school. A lighted softball and baseball field facility should be considered as part of this park development. Such a facility may be developed in conjunction with a new high school.
- c. Develop and maintain access to the public lands surrounding the city.
- d. Landscape public spaces in a manner that improves community image where feasible.

(See Community Design, Chapter 6.)

Objective 1.2

Create new parks and recreational facilities to serve both new development in existing neighborhoods and new communities.

Policy:

- a. Educate developers about the park system plan, the benefits of parks and trails, and the role they are expected to play in their developments including park land reservations and fees-in-lieu thereof.
- b. To implement park plans, the City should require new development to contribute a fair share of the costs of providing park facilities, both in the immediate vicinity of the development and the development’s share of larger neighborhood park needs.
- c. Encourage the creation of neighborhood parks in conjunction with large-scale residential development and as part of the neighborhood refinement plan process.

Goal 2: Coordinate development of Chubbuck Parks and recreational facilities with other jurisdictions and members of the community.

Objective 2.1

Develop support for the Chubbuck Parks and Recreation within the Community.

Policy:

- a. Involve the community in the development of parks and recreation policy and the provision and development of parks and recreation programs.
- b. Encourage park adoption by neighborhood or groups (i.e., Kiwanis, a business,) and/or encourage park clean-up days, one in spring and one in fall.
- c. Work with the Ft. Hall Irrigation Company and property owners to gain access to canal levees targeted for a path system.
- d. Encourage and cooperate with private sports associations and the school district to build and maintain parks and recreational facilities such as ball fields, soccer fields.

Objective 2.2

Integrate Chubbuck Parks and Recreational facilities with those of surrounding communities as a part of a regional system.

Policy:

- a. Investigate linking the City path and trail system to the Shoshone-Bannock reservation and the Portneuf Greenway.
- b. Cooperate with School District 25 to develop school parks. This might be a park immediately adjacent to a school or a school with park facilities. Maintenance, use, and development agreements would be established between the city and school district.
- c. Explore possibilities for joint development of an indoor recreation and/or cultural facility with Pocatello, Bannock County, School District 25, and other entities.

Goal 3: Create a Park and Recreation System Master Plan that would include standards for the following:

Objective 3.1

Develop a park master plan that locates path systems, park locations, bicycle routes and other facilities.

Policy:

- a. Distribute parkland to service all residents with a community park on both the east and west sides of the railroad tracks, a neighborhood park in each community, and a mini-park, green or square in each neighborhood.
- b. Build an indoor recreation and/or cultural complex.
- c. Establish multi-use paths, bike routes, and bike lanes to connect existing and future parks with schools, residential and commercial areas, and transit stops.
- d. Support development of a regional trail system within major and minor watersheds of the Portneuf River Valley. **(See Natural Resources, Chapter 9.)**
- e. Include recreational bicycle ways in parklands wherever feasible. **(See Transportation, Chapter 5.)**

Objective 3.2

Develop park and recreational facilities to meet minimum requirements and design standards.

Policy:

- a. Develop park and path standards, including standards for private parks.
- b. Develop parks to be versatile and flexible to accommodate diverse and changing user group's over time.
- c. Develop model standards for school-park facilities, maintenance agreement, and form a committee to present the proposal to School District 25.
- d. Research and develop park design, maintenance, and landscaping practices to assure the development of parks that are inexpensive to develop and maintain.