

HAILEY RODEO PARK

Frequently Asked Questions

The Hailey Rodeo Park is the Fundraising Campaign to build the Master Plan of the former Wertheimer Park (site of the current rodeo grounds and skatepark).

Working with its Parks & Lands Board, the Sawtooth Rangers, Hailey Ice and other volunteer groups, the City of Hailey, owner of the rodeo grounds and world-class Hailey Skatepark, has adopted a Master Plan for the entire rodeo grounds that creates diverse year-round recreational activities for all ages in our community— ice skating in the winter, concerts in the summer, a welcome to visitors, a new skate plaza, all in addition to the 4th of July Rodeo and our existing skatepark.

What's included in the Rodeo Park Master Plan?

- **Multi-use Event Arena** - An outdoor arena built to rodeo dimensions, with a grandstand and seating for 3500, and space for temporary pens and chutes. When not being used for the 4th of July Rodeo, the arena will be available for special events and concerts, as well as a broad range of equestrian events ranging from high school rodeo to professional cutting.
- **Hailey Ice Rink** - A refrigerated concrete slab for an ice rink, including mechanical, storage and Zamboni space. Future plans include a roof over the ice, which would also add locker rooms and restrooms. The facility will be ice from November through April, and available the rest of the time for other uses such as Springfest and farmers markets.
- **Skate Plaza** - An expansion to the current skatepark with street elements for skaters, with stairs, rails and ledges. The plaza includes grassy areas for friends and spectators.
- **Visitors Center** – A welcome for visitors to Hailey, with community meeting space.
- **Celebration of the history of the property** – A museum-quality exhibit or display of the history of the rodeo arena and Wertheimer Park property. These will be integrated into the visitors' center and installed throughout the property.
- **Integrated Public Art elements** – Public art elements will be integrated into the overall improvements. Whether an historic rodeo mural, sculptural elements,

or artistic enhancements to common construction materials, public art assures a project completely unique to Hailey.

- **Improved community entrance** - Grassy areas and trees will frame parking areas and the entrance from Main Street. Parking will be adequate for routine use of the skatepark, ice rink and visitors' center, but shuttles and other means of transportation will be needed for special events.

What's going to happen to the existing arena?

The existing white-walled arena and bleachers used for the 4th of July Rodeo will be demolished. Portions of the wall will be retained and incorporated into the new facility. Lumber and other materials will be recycled, auctioned off to raise funds, or otherwise responsibly disposed.

Will we still have the 4th of July Rodeo?

The Rodeo and arena are an important component of Hailey's heritage and history, and the community has shown support for them to continue. It is critical that Hailey's 4th of July event not be disrupted. Construction could start immediately after the 2010 4th of July event, and the 2011 rodeo could be held in the new facility.

Why are we trying to do this now? Why not wait until a more favorable economic climate?

Hailey Ice has been fundraising for ten years, and the City of Hailey is committed to providing a permanent site for the Hailey Ice Rink. The Sawtooth Rangers' lease expires in 2010 and the community ranked redevelopment of this property as the top priority in the 2008 survey. Furthermore, it is believed that construction costs over the next year would be less because of current economic conditions, resulting in a savings of 10 – 20%. All things considered, it would be best to build on existing momentum and complete the project now.

What about parking?

The new configuration of the site presents a net zero loss of parking spaces. Parking will be adequate for routine use of the skatepark, ice rink and visitors center, but shuttles and other means of transportation will be needed for special events. Parking for 4th of July Rodeo contestants has been arranged with the cooperation of the Blaine County School District.

How much will it cost?

The project is estimated to cost around \$6 million.

How is it going to be paid for?

The Hailey City Council has pledged to match up to half the cost with capital funds and/or voter-approved funding if donations and pledges can be secured for the other half. A fundraising campaign is currently underway to raise the \$3 million dollars needed to match the City's pledge.

When will the project be completed?

The project could be completed in Fall 2011. Construction phasing is carefully timed to not interfere with the 4th of July Rodeo - construction (starting with removal of the arena) could start right after the 2010 Rodeo, and Hailey Ice's rink could be ready to skate fall 2010. The arena could be ready for the 4th of July Rodeo 2011 (substantially complete). Everything else - skate plaza, visitors center, parking and landscaping improvements - could be completed summer/fall 2011.

How will this work – will Hailey Ice and the Sawtooth Rangers own the facilities?

No; all improvements will be owned, managed and maintained by the City. Hailey Ice will manage and operate the ice and programs from November through April, and the Sawtooth Rangers will continue to operate the 4th of July Rodeo. Both facilities will be otherwise available for other public events and uses, which will be managed through the City of Hailey. Event fees will help offset operation costs.

Will I get to vote on this?

We hope that the community will demonstrate its support of this project through successful fundraising in the next few months. Hailey citizens may be asked to approve some means of recreation funding at the polls. Fundraising will continue until adequate funds are secured for the entire plan.

Where can I get more detailed information?

Through the City of Hailey at 788-4221, or drop by City Hall to view the site plan on display in the upstairs lobby.

Send your donations to the Hailey Parks Foundation at
PO Box 3107, Hailey ID 83333

Donate online at www.HaileyCityHall.org