

# Lesson 6

## State Park By Design

**Theme: “Plan for the Future by Preserving the Past”**

### **Content Objectives:**

Students will:

- Gain an understanding of the purposes of state parks
- Understand how parks, particularly state parks, originated
- Learn how state parks receive their park classifications
- Create a budget for their own state park
- Design their own state park(s)

### **Suggested Level:**

Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Grade

### **Standards Correlation:**

- Language Arts
  - o Standard 1: Reading Process 1.2
  - o Standard 2: Comprehension/Interpretation 2.1, 2.2
- Language Usage
  - o Standard 3: Writing Process 3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.5
  - o Standard 5: Writing Components 5.4
- Health
  - o Standard 1: Healthy Lifestyles 1.1
  - o Standard 2: Risk taking Behavior 2.1
  - o Standard 5: Mental and Emotional Wellness 5.1
- Humanities: Visual Arts
  - o Standard 2: Critical Thinking 2.2
  - o Standard 3: Performance 3.1, 3.2, 3.3
- Physical Education
  - o Standard 3: Physically Active Lifestyle 3.1
  - o Standard 5: Personal and Social Responsibility 5.1
- Social Studies
  - o Standard 2: Geography 2.1

### **Suggested Time Allowance:**

Two 1-hour sessions

### **Materials:**

- Idaho State Parks and Recreation Guide** (One for each student, if possible)
- “Idaho State Park Resource Sheet”
- “Park Management” Sheet
- “State Park Design Planner” Sheet
- “Future Park Design Planner” Sheet
- Pocket Folders (portfolios)
- Writing instruments
- Art supplies

### **Preparation:**

- Order **Idaho State Parks and Recreation Guides** (Free from IDPR)
- Make copies of “Idaho State Park Resource Sheet” (one per student)
- Make copies of “Park Management” Sheet (one per student)
- Make copies of “Park Land Use Classification” Sheet (one per student)
- Make copies of “State Park Design Planner” (one per student)
- Make copies of “Future Park Design Planner” (one per student)
- Pocket Folders (each student’s portfolio)

### **Procedures:**

Session 1:

1. Give each student a pocket folder to hold materials. Hand out copies of the “Idaho State Park Resource Sheet”. Highlight the mission of Idaho State Parks. Highlight the date the Heyburn became the first Idaho state park (1908).

2. Hand out the "Park Management" Sheet and talk about the various duties. You may want to compare the staff and duties to a school (i.e. Manager = Principal; Interpreter = Teacher, etc...) or family structure (i.e. Manager = Parent, etc...).
3. Talk about the fact that state parks have been designed to preserve an area. That if they had not been set aside in the past, they may now be houses, shopping malls, or parking lots. Ask the students what other things may have been put on those areas of land.
4. Hand out Park Land Use Classification Sheet. Read as a class or individually to help students understand and determine why state parks have different classifications dependent upon the resources.
5. Discuss how we need to plan for the future and that we still need to set aside areas to preserve for future generations.
6. Hand out "State Park Design Planner". Allow students time to work.
7. Preface handing out the "Future Park Design Planner" Sheet by talking about how scientific advances are taking us into areas that we would have never dreamed of centuries ago. Discuss how if a colony was ever formed on the moon, the original moon landing site would be an important area to preserve for historical purposes. Hand out the sheets and allow students time to work.

### Session 2:

1. Allow students time to finish working on sheets as needed.
2. Have class presentations with each student sharing their designs along with descriptions of their parks to the class.

### Assessment Strategies:

- Class participation
- State Park design

### Extension Activities:

- Refer to Idaho State Park 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activity Book for other activities.
- Invite a state park employee to your class to talk about their park and what they do or take a field trip to a state park.

### Resources:

- Idaho State Parks Guidebook** (Paperback) **Author:** Bill Loftus **Publisher:** Tribune Pub Co **Date Published:** 1989 **ISBN-13:** 9780960750658
- Idaho State Parks and Recreation Guide FREE** Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Regional Service Center contact information: PO Box 83720 • Boise, ID 83720-0065 • (208) 334-4199 or online at [www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov](http://www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov)
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Homepage** [www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov](http://www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov)

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# Idaho State Park Resource Sheet

## **Mission:**

"To improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship."

## **Vision:**

*"We are innovators in outdoor recreation, committed to excellent service and resource stewardship. We foster experiences that renew the human spirit and promote community vitality."*

**In 1965, the Idaho State Legislature enacted legislation creating the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR). The legislation reads, in part:**

*"It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Parks and Recreation shall formulate and put into execution a long range, comprehensive plan and program for the acquisition, planning, protection, operation, maintenance, development and wise use of areas of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historic archeological or scientific interest, to the end that the health, happiness, recreational opportunities and wholesome enjoyment of life of the people may be further encouraged."*

Before Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation was created, there were areas declared "Scenic and Recreational". These areas were parks and campgrounds taken care of by the State Land Board starting in 1907. Heyburn became the first Idaho State Park and first state park in the Pacific Northwest in 1908. In 1947 the Highway Department became responsible for parks along with any new ones. In 1949 the State Land Board again took control of the areas and in 1953 a Parks Division was created within the Land Board. A former superintendent of Glacier National Park took charge of the Idaho program in 1958.

In 1965, two things came together that resulted in the creation of a state park system in Idaho. First, Roland and Averell Harriman agreed to donate what is now Harriman State Park to the State of Idaho on the condition that a professional agency be created to manage it. Second, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund was created. Statewide recreation planning was required to qualify for the federal funds, which were used to develop state and local recreation facilities. It would take a state agency to do that. Currently there are 30 state parks and recreational trailways in Idaho. This year we are celebrating 100 years of state parks in Idaho.

Even though Idaho has vast wildernesses and a high percentage of federal lands, the state does not have a single *national park* within its boundaries. However, the National Park Service administers several national monuments, a historical park and a national reserve in Idaho.

## Idaho State Parks Fast Facts

<b>State Park</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Elevation</b>	<b>Campsites</b>
Bear Lake	966	6,000	48
Bruneau Dunes	4,800	2,470	98
Castle Rocks	1,240	5,800	0
City of Rocks	14,300	6,500	76
Coeur d'Alene Parkway	34	2,188	0
Dworshak	850	1,600	105
Eagle Island	545	2,724	0
Farragut	4,000	2,054	184
Harriman	4,440	6,120	0
Hells Gate	960	733	93
Henry's Lake	585	6,470	45
Heyburn	5,505	2,140	132
Lake Cascade	4,450	4,825	300
Lake Walcott	65	4,250	23
Land of the Yankee Fork	482	5,280	115 nearby
Lucky Peak	240	3,000	0
Massacre Rocks	990	4,400	43
McCroskey	5,412	3,600	12
Old Mission	18	2,200	0
Ponderosa	1,470	5,050	117
Priest Lake	755	2,440	151
Round Lake	142	2,122	53
Thousand Springs	1,900	3,190	0
Three Island Crossing	513	2,484	82
Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes	1,056	2,300	0
Winchester Lake	418	3,900	68

# PARK MANAGEMENT

## Staff duties:

**Manager** - Manage a state park including staff, grounds, facilities and equipment, as well as recreation and education programs. Responsible for park and recreation rule compliance. Be involved in community by providing technical support to community groups or other agencies. Represents the park at public meetings. Create staff and money budgets, prepares financial reports, conducts regular staff meetings, plans and supervises maintenance and repair of park facilities, oversees park concessions, may perform park maintenance and construction tasks. Works year round.

**Assistant Manager** - Assist the park manager with the management and supervision of staff and the daily operation of recreation programs and facilities for visitors. Protect and enhance the natural, historical, and recreational resources of a large state park. Helps with park building and grounds maintenance, park and recreation rule compliance and conflict resolution of visitor and user issues. Works year round.

**Interpretive Specialist** - Develop, implement, supervise and coordinate comprehensive historical interpretive/educational programs for state interpretive sites. Research historical or natural resource feature literature and materials relating to park or historic sites; interview people to obtain historical information; develops, implements, and conducts interpretive/historical education programs including talks, tours, audio-visual presentations and living history for visitors of all ages. Develop and write pamphlets, brochures, signs, exhibits and articles. Present historical and informational programs to school and civic groups. May procure, record, conserve and store artifacts. Represent the park at public meetings. Hire and train park aides and volunteers. Works year round.

**Ranger** - Provide education and information services for park visitors. Maintain park facilities and grounds areas and ensure compliance with park rules and regulations. Collect fees, present interpretive programs, patrol the park to protect and preserve park resources from vandalism, poaching, and substance abuse. May have special duties such as maintaining park rock climbing facilities and grounds. Hire and train park aides and volunteers. Prepare and maintain reports, inventories and expense transmittals. Represent the park at public meetings. Works year round.

**Office Specialist** - Perform a wide variety of secretarial support functions; use a computer to enter and retrieve information, write letters, prepare reports, file paperwork, answer park phone, answer visitor questions, compile information about park and surrounding areas, and prepare financial reports. Needs a good knowledge of English grammar and rules, spelling, and punctuation. Works year round.

**Park Aide** - Greet visitors and answer questions, collect park fees, clean restrooms, collect garbage, operate front desk, operate cash register, help maintain grounds and buildings. Stock park publications, maintain and stock gift shop items. Answer phone, file papers and reports. Raise, lower and fold flag, clean visitor center, and dust. Help with interpretive programs and special events. Works 5 or 8 months of the year. May be designated in a specialty area such as Trail Ranger, or Interpretation. Trail Rangers spend their time working on trails, which includes cutting down hazardous trees, clearing trail and building trails on state and federal lands.

**Maintenance Craftsman** - Perform maintenance and repairs on park vehicles--including lawn mowers, buildings and other facilities and systems in the park. Includes working with electricity, plumbing, and carpentry. Works year round.

## Park Expenses

(Yearly)

Phone	\$2,400	includes office phones and cell phones
Electricity	\$10,000	
Garbage	\$7,500	
Water	\$600	
Sewer	\$5,000	includes pumping of vault toilets and dump stations
Maintenance		
Buildings/Facilities	\$8,400	
Grounds	\$6,000	
Fuel	\$10,000	
Publications/Maps/Brochures	\$1,000	
Interpretive Programs/Junior Ranger	\$2,000	
Insurance	\$5,000	
Office Supplies	\$1,500	
Office Equipment	\$1,500	
Heating/Cooling	\$3,000	
Gift Shop Items	\$10,000	
Staff Salary (hourly rate)		
Manager	\$25.96	
Assistant Manager	\$19.54	
Interpretive Specialist	\$19.54	
Ranger	\$17.37	
Office Specialist	\$13.29	
Park Aide	\$ 9.00	
Maintenance Craftsman	\$12.65	

A position that works year round, works 2,080 hours in a year. A position that works 5 months, works 880 hours in a year. A position that works 8 months, works 1,385 hours in a year.

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation uses a park management classification system to help determine the level of staffing required for the operation of a given state park unit. The factors include the number of people need to operate at the park, total budget of the park, amount of money the park earns, number of visitors to the park, and total number of acres managed. These are reviewed as needed. A typical park has a manager, 1-2 rangers, and 5-7 park aides. A large complex park will have a manager, an assistant manager, an interpretive specialist, 3-5 rangers, an office specialist, 7-14 park aides and a maintenance craftsman. A small park may only have a manager, a ranger and 2-3 park aides.

## Park Land Use Classifications

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation is charged with the dual mission of protecting and preserving the resources of the state park system and of providing recreation opportunities and facilities for public use. These resources present diverse and high quality recreational, social, interpretive, conservancy and educational opportunities.

A well-balanced park system requires the utilization of a broad range of resources in varying combinations; from intensively-used developed sites providing diverse recreation opportunities for large groups of people, to primitive areas providing natural enjoyment for limited numbers.

Figuring out the classification of a park is the first step in planning, development and management efforts. To understand how to figure out a new park's classification, you need to look at the dominant characters of the park and the principal values or the reason why you would want to preserve this area. Most of this information can be found in enabling legislation or any additional legislation the State Legislature passes to provide funding for the purchase of park property. This defines why the state feels that the area needs to be protected and preserved. A classification system allows the park planners and designers to develop and figure out the best use of the lands based upon the management policies set forth. Standard systems ensure that all of the areas are treated the same and the policies are the same throughout the state. This means that there will be consistent management of our natural, recreational and heritage resources.

On September 17, 1973, the Idaho Park and Recreation Board adopted the original Classification System for the Recreation Resources in the State of Idaho. All units of the state park system existing at that time received a park classification. The agency director, with region and park input, classifies new additions to the state park system when the property is added to the system. A park's classification is revisited during the preparation of the initial plans and other plans developed later so that as a park changes, the needs of the park and its visitor are being met. These plans are reviewed and approved by the Park Board as they are updated.

The 2005 edition of the State Park Classification and Resource Area Designation System has four classifications of state parks in Idaho. They are: Natural Park, Recreation Park, Heritage Park and Recreation Trailway. Each classification has a distinct purpose, unique reasons for its designation, level of resource development and specific uses for the park area and recreational opportunities for the park visitor. In determining the classification of a park, you need to give attention to any national, state, or regional designation that may already exist in regard to the park. For example, at City of Rocks, the area has been designated as a National Natural Landmark and National Historic Landmark. Sometimes there are special rules and regulations that must be followed. Another example is if one of the buildings in the park, such as is the case at Harriman State Park and Old Mission, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The rules and regulations are put in place so that all parks are treated the same and that areas or buildings with special needs get the care and attention that they need.

There are a wide variety of experiences that the Idaho State Park system wants to provide for its visitor. These include solitude, a leisure atmosphere, the observation and study of natural features and processes, and outdoor experience in natural surroundings, a friendly and safe environment, cultural and historical experiences, a pleasant and positive social interaction and in some cases an athletic challenge.

All development, programs and management are put in place to promote and enhance the visitor's opportunity to have the experiences listed above and also provide for the protection of the park resources. Sometimes areas might remain closed to the public until everything is put in place to provide for the safety of the park visitors and the park resources. Each

state park classification offers a variety of recreation experiences, but it is impossible for every single park to provide all of the same experiences. For example, you can go water skiing at Bear Lake, but there isn't that much water at Bruneau Dunes. So if you want to go water skiing, Bruneau Dunes would not be the best choice. But if you want to view the stars and play on sand dunes, Bruneau Dunes would be the place to go. Something that Bear Lake and Bruneau Dunes have in common is sand. So if you want to play in the sand either park is the place for you.

In a **Natural Park** you will find interesting examples of natural features, which might be some really cool animals, plants or rock formations. Sometimes it is the breathtaking views and vistas. These types of parks are preserved because they are beautiful and represent an extraordinary natural resource in the state. The activities within the park provide a variety of opportunities for the visitor to enjoy a natural setting but without a large negative effect on the resource. In these parks you may be able to hike, attend an interpretive program, study nature, camp, picnic, bicycle, cross-country ski, snowshoe, ride a horse, boat, or swim. Buildings and facilities needed might include group campground, individual campsites, lodges, marina facilities, boat launches, swimming beaches, visitor/interpretive centers, program areas, trails, trailhead facilities, staff housing areas, maintenance yards and other similar facilities.

In a **Recreation Park** you will find many opportunities and a broad range of different things to do for a large number of people. Many times you find things to do that you can't do in a city park or maybe it isn't different, just on a larger scale. Things to do include group and individual camping, boating, fishing, special events, outdoor recreation club activities such as model airplane flying, outdoor concerts and large group programs, reunions and retreats, course and field events like disc golf, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use like motorcycling, ATVing or snowmobiling, interpretive programming, picnicking and swimming. The management of these parks needs to be flexible because new forms of active outdoor recreation might be developed in the future and may become very popular. Typical development might include group campgrounds, individual campsites, lodges, golf courses, marina facilities, boat launches, swimming beaches, visitor/interpretive centers, large group amphitheaters, program areas, outdoor club facilities, non-motorized trails, motorized trails, trailhead facilities, staff housing area, maintenance yards, and other similar facilities.

**Heritage Parks** are established to preserve, restore, and interpret those objects, buildings, sites, district and related lands that illustrate an historic event, historic period or culture in the heritage of the state. For example Glade Creek is the area where Lewis and Clark camped and Old Mission has the oldest standing building in Idaho. Visitors to these parks will be offered tours, programs, historic reenactments, hiking, archaeological study, architectural study, historical research, picnicking, individual camping, group camping, bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, or boating. Typical development might include visitor/interpretive centers, program areas, individual campsites, group campgrounds, boat launches, trails, trailhead facilities, staff housing areas, maintenance yards, and other similar facilities.

**Recreation Trailways** are a linear land or water-based corridor for recreational travel that is designed to provide physical challenges and/or to foster an appreciation of the natural environment. These trailways are established to provide multiple-use trail opportunities. One such park is Coeur d'Alene Parkway. Visitors to these parks might be offered hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, in-line skating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, OHV use or water-based recreation such as rafting, canoeing or kayaking. Typical development might include multi-purpose trails, erosion control structures, bridges/culverts, fencing, trailheads, restrooms, picnic areas, primitive campsites, cabins and yurts, trail markers, interpretive signage and maintenance facilities.



# Park Classifications

(As of August 2005)

## Recreation Parks

Farragut  
Coeur d'Alene Parkway  
Mowry  
Dworshak  
Hells Gate  
Winchester Lake  
Lake Cascade  
Lucky Peak  
Eagle Island  
Lake Walcott  
Bear Lake  
Henrys Lake

## Natural Parks

Priest Lake  
Round Lake  
Heyburn  
Mary Minerva McCroskey  
Ponderosa  
Bruneau Dunes  
Thousand Springs  
City of Rocks National Reserve  
Castle Rocks  
Harriman

## Heritage Parks

Three Island Crossing  
Massacre Rocks  
Land of the Yankee Fork  
Old Mission

## Recreation Trailways

Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes  
Ashton-Tetonia Rail Trail

# STATE PARK DESIGN PLANNER

The first Idaho State Park was created 100 years ago. What kind of a park would you create?

Park Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Park Location (area or city, etc...): \_\_\_\_\_

Park Focus: \_\_\_\_\_

Access to the park (boat, hiking, car, etc...): \_\_\_\_\_

Staff (park aide, manager, ranger): \_\_\_\_\_

Amenities available (restrooms, gift shop, camping area, groomed trails, picnic areas etc...): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Outdoor activities (fishing, rock climbing, etc...): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Estimated total annual park cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Draw your state park below.

State Park Name:

# FUTURE PARK DESIGN PLANNER

The first Idaho State Park was created 100 years ago.  
Where would you build a park in 100 years?

Park Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Park Location (sky, moon, ocean, etc...): \_\_\_\_\_

Park Focus: \_\_\_\_\_

Access to the park (rocket, submarine, helicopter, etc...): \_\_\_\_\_

Staff (park aide, manager, ranger): \_\_\_\_\_

Facilities available (restrooms, gift shop, camping area, groomed trails, picnic areas etc...): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Outdoor activities (fishing, rock climbing, etc...): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Estimated total annual park cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Draw your park below.

State Park Name: