

CITY OF STANLEY

September 15, 2025

Dear City Residents and other interested parties,

The City is in the process of implementing several exciting additions to Pioneer Park. We believe that these changes will enhance the recreational experience for residents and visitors alike. Now that work on these projects is underway, we would like to provide community members with an update on what you will see this fall, and what to expect in the future. The park will remain open during this construction, with minimal obstruction.

Stanley-to-Redfish Lake Trail Facilities:

In April 2025, the City received final approval from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) for a \$199,000 grant to provide parking, restroom, and interpretive facilities for residents and visitors using the Stanley-to-Redfish Lake Trail (S2R Trail). The City will contribute up to about \$219,000 in matching funds from option tax revenues for this project. See the attached map for a general overview of the location of these facilities.

In order to accommodate the expected increase in park use related to the S2R Trail, the existing parking area near the current ice rink will be upgraded and organized to serve motor homes, trailers and other large vehicles in addition to normal car traffic. This will provide general parking for summer events and ice rink use in additional to serving S2R users. To accommodate even more expected use, the City will construct a new parking lot between the ballfield and the school for about 40 vehicles. These parking lots will be connected to the trailhead by walking paths. See attached maps providing more detail on the location and configuration of these parking lots.

The storage room within the existing picnic shelter near the S2R trailhead will be converted into a public restroom. It will accommodate two restroom units and a maintenance room. The restroom units will have flush toilets, will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and will be accessible all-year.

The City will utilize grant funding from the Idaho Blue Cross Foundation to install interpretive signage and a viewing scope near the trailhead. This will inform trail users about items of interest along the trail and provide a map of destinations within the City.

Ice Rink Facilities:

The City has received a \$48,000 Gem Grant from the Idaho Department of Commerce to improve the ice rink. The rink will be enlarged to 200 feet by 100 feet, which will meet the National Hockey League standard as well as provide an additional 15 feet in width for enhanced curling capability. The rink will be moved slightly to the south and west and will have upgraded lighting to ensure that the

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entire surface is adequately illuminated. The location of the new ice rink will be integrated with the S2R trailhead parking plan to ensure better access for year-round activities.

Zip Lines:

The City received a \$20,000 grant from the Idaho Blue Cross Foundation to install two zip lines near the ballfield. One will be north of the ballfield and the other will be to the south. Each zip line will be about 125-150 feet long. These will be playground-type zip lines, only about 2 feet above the ground, with a gentle gradient, to provide safe fun for children and adults. See the attached map for more information about the location and type of zip lines.

Astronomical Observatory:

About two years ago the City Council approved construction of a small observatory near the park picnic area. This project is being funded by the Idaho Dark Sky Alliance, which will donate the building to the City after completion. The Alliance manages the day-to-day operations for the Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve and will be in charge of observatory activities. The observatory has a roll-off roof to allow the Celestron 14" Edge HD model telescope a clear view of the night sky.

The observatory will be open for scheduled public events as well as for citizen science projects. Events will occur throughout the year and will be posted on the City of Stanley website and Facebook, and also on the Alliance website (idahodarksky.org).

We hope that you will enjoy these park improvements for many years to come. Thank you for your contributions to the park planning effort, letters of support for grant applications, and matching fund contributions to make these dreams a reality.

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Respectfully,

Mayor & City Council City of Stanley, Idaho

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