

DONA LARSEN PARK

The site of East Junior High School will become a Boise State University-owned park named for former teacher and coach Dona Larsen.

Thanks to a donation of \$2.5 million from the David and Debra Larsen Huber Family Foundation, the 14.5-acre site near the corner of Broadway Boulevard and Warm Springs Avenue will become a multi-use sports complex.

Dona Larsen, who is the mother of Debra Larsen Huber, grew up in Cornish, Utah. She has been an active member of the Boise community since 1956, when she and her husband, Dorrell, moved to the Treasure Valley.

Larsen was a stay-at-home mother raising her 10 children. She was also involved with local athletic teams, spending seven years running the girls' summer softball and basketball programs for Boise City Recreation, and coaching her children's teams.

She began teaching physical education full time at East Junior High in 1970, as well as coaching girls' track and volleyball. She retired in 2000 at the age of 72.

The site of the new Dona Larsen Park originally was an athletic field named Cody Park, built in 1911. The Boise School District purchased the land in November 1924 and renamed it Public School Field. The field was used for many noteworthy athletic and community events until the construction of East Junior High School in 1953.

