

The committee also agreed that a systematic approach of identifying and evaluating these properties was necessary and therefore a system of subcommittees was devised and initiated.

Over the course of the next year the Committee and subcommittees met regularly to develop criteria to identify and evaluate potential preservation sites. A progress report was presented to the Boise City Council on March 17, 1992. At that meeting, Chairman Breuer discussed the Committee's work and presented a preliminary map of sites.

Since the subcommittees assumed the responsibility for evaluating each site, the city did not enter into contracts with professional biologists or archaeologists as anticipated in the initial proposal and budget. Rather the Committee chose to rely on the expertise of its various Committee members. At the conclusion of the Committee's analyses, the City contracted to have the final report compiled. However, the total committee expenditures, including city staff time and materials, was well under \$10,000.

An advertised public open house was held on February 11, 1993 at Boise City Hall. Property owners and interested public reviewed proposed sites and ranking criteria.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

To develop criteria for the selection of areas within the Boise Area of City Impact the Committee divided into five subcommittees. The subcommittees were habitat/wetlands, historic/archaeological, scenic/aesthetic, linkage/public access and models/examples. The criteria developed by the subcommittees would be used to identify and evaluate potential sites.

The purpose of the first four subcommittees was to address the various attributes identified by the Committee during their earlier goal setting process. The fifth subcommittee's function was to investigate examples and programs from other communities which might be applicable in Boise, particularly as it pertained to the ultimate implementation of a land preservation program. The results of their work are discussed in the concluding section of this report.

During the summer of 1991, the subcommittees met and identified criteria for each of their disciplines. The criteria as adopted by the full committee were as follows:

Habitat/Wetlands Criteria. In general, characteristics for habitat may include food, shelter or water that supports desired flora and fauna. Characteristics for wetlands may include appropriate soils, flora and fauna typically associated with wetlands. The area of consideration will:

1. Contain or provide buffer for rare plant or animal species.
2. Provide habitat for watchable wildlife.

5. Be isolated and provide a sense of solitude.
6. Provide visual or physical buffer between developments and open spaces such as parks or other areas of interest.
7. Contain pastoral qualities in an urban setting.
8. Be a natural area not adversely impacted by human activity.
9. Be an adversely impacted area with potential for restoration.

Linkage/Public Access Criteria. Trail corridors and public access will be identified to link parks, reserves, neighborhoods, foothills trails and recreational areas, and the Boise River Greenbelt with each other. These corridors should take into consideration topography, geology, effects on natural resources, land ownership, type of use and parking concerns. The area of consideration will:

1. Provide access to and along the river.
2. Provide linkage into upper foothills.
3. Link existing or proposed parks, reserves, or recreational areas.
4. Provide link to areas or trail systems beyond Boise Area of City Impact.
5. Be a historical trail.
6. Not impose adverse impact to natural resources due to public access.
7. Make use of existing pathways such as major canals, railroad rights-of-way or utility corridors.
8. Be partially or entirely owned by cooperative landowner.

Subsequent to the adoption of these criteria by the full Committee, the subcommittees reconvened and ranked each of the criteria. These rankings were then incorporated onto scoring sheets which might be taken to specific sites for evaluation.

To test the criteria and the rankings the Committee visited several sites within the Area of City Impact and used the scoring sheets. The sites visited included Hulls Gulch, Castle Rock and the Oregon Trail. Based on the comments received from these visits the sheets were modified and other site visits--Table Rock, Rocky Canyon, and the proposed Bench Park--were conducted. The Committee discussed the process and determined that certain criteria within each category were more important than others. Therefore a multiplier or weight was assigned to each criteria. The scoring sheets as

potential prehistoric significance as Native American burial grounds. Historic period use in this vicinity includes a wagon road for transporting quarried rock from the ridge to the Old Idaho Penitentiary. The property is unique for its proximity and accessibility to residential development. It offers an important access point for foothills recreationists.

Site 18: Old Pen Area. This site is near the Old Idaho Penitentiary, in east Boise, east of Site 17. This relatively flat, undisturbed area, providing a scenic open space near a residential area. The property includes a small wetlands near a ditch and a "snag" grove provides wildlife cover. In addition, an historic wagon road is thought to traverse the property. An existing trail to Castle Rock and an old road are used to provide public access.

Site 19: Abandoned Railroad Track. This site is in east Boise between the Morrison Knudsen building (on Park Avenue) and Walnut Street, behind East Junior High. Although the site's scenic qualities appear marginal, redesign and development would greatly improve the area and could extend day use of over-burdened Municipal Park. Likewise this site shows excellent potential for a wildlife corridor if properly planted and allowed to overgrow (a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, or Coopers, has already been seen in this area). The site is of historic interest because of its use as a railroad bed. The site also offers an excellent opportunity for an extended bike path/trail to Broadway Avenue from the Greenbelt.

Site 20: Table Rock Area. This site is in east Boise on the site of the Old Idaho Penitentiary. It is the field behind the Idaho Botanical Gardens that extends into the foothills. Because of its location among historic and natural features, this is a site with exceptional scenic qualities. In addition, the site has a high species diversity of "watchable" wildlife. These wildlife include foxes, quail, marmots, and deer. The site is already traversed by numerous trails, and equestrian groups have expressed interest in building a trailhead.

Site 21: Table Rock. This area landmark is in east Boise. It includes the top of Table Rock and the State lands down to the Old Idaho Penitentiary site. The site is important, both as a backdrop for the city and as viewpoint of the city, offering spectacular vistas as well as open space opportunities. Wildlife on the site include fox, coyote and deer. Some native vegetation is evident on the face of Table Rock. The site is of historic interest because of its longtime use as a stone quarry, most notably for the sandstone used to construct the Penitentiary. Table Rock has also been used as a picnic and recreation area since the late nineteenth century. Archaeological sites are likely present in this area as well. The site contains several pathways linking it to other open space areas of the Boise Front and already provides a significant foothills access point for recreationists (hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists).

Site 22: Table Rock Toe. This site is west of Site 21 and east of Warm Springs Avenue. It is a steep hillside, that provides a scenic backdrop, constituting the base of Table Rock. The site provides wintering habitat for mule deer and other wildlife,

including coyote and fox. Herpetological habitats (lizards, snakes) are also common. The site already offers an important access into the foothills from existing trails. Equestrian groups have expressed interest in building a trailhead.

Site 23: Parkinson Parcel. This property is on the north side of the Boise River, on the south side of Highway 21 below the Warm Springs Mesa subdivision. Due to its outstanding river location the property has significant scenic and aesthetic qualities. The site offers highly important habitat for wintering Bald Eagles and other riparian wildlife, primarily due to its very mature, classic riparian gallery forest. Although public access should be discouraged along this stretch of river, due to the rich wildlife habitat, there are opportunities for an interpretive center with trails.

Site 24: Kelly Hot Springs. This property is on the north side of Highway 21 in the vicinity of Barber Road adjacent to Site 26. Although it is close to the city, it provides solitude opportunities. The site is part of a large complex essential for maintaining good geese, bald eagle, and mule deer habitat. The site has potential historic and pre-historic significance, with identified archaeological sites.

Site 25: Warm Springs Creek Drainage. This property is north of Barber Road and west of Eckert Road on the north side of Highway 21. The site is within close proximity to the city, yet it offers superior views and solitude opportunities. The site offers winter deer range contiguous to Fish & Game land and is a known deer migration corridor to the Boise River. This property is part of a large complex essential for maintaining good geese, bald eagle, and mule deer winter habitat. Public access opportunities include a possible link to South Contour Road from the Greenbelt.

Site 26: Barber Flats. This site is near the road along the base of Warm Springs Mesa subdivision to Kelly Hot Springs. The site is traversed by transmission lines. It is part of a large complex essential for maintaining good geese, bald eagle and mule deer winter habitat. The site includes an existing road to private homes and Kelly Hot Springs and the Warm Springs Creek drainage. It offers a link from the Greenbelt to the foothills, and an alternative route to Highway 21.

Site 27: Barber Flats. This property is east of Boise, north of Highway 21 next to an existing mobile home park. The site consists of a large field at the base of the foothills. It provides a rural setting along the main eastern entrance to Boise. Although it is close to the city, it provides solitude opportunities. The site is part of a large complex essential for maintaining good geese, bald eagle and mule deer winter habitat. The site has historic significance as the former Barber townsite. Historic and prehistoric evidence on the site are likely. The property also provides a critical link to public trails on Fish & Game and BLM lands. Any development of trails or pathways should be carefully reviewed to assure that impact to winter deer habitat is minimized.

Site 28: Barber Dam. This property is east of Boise, within the Boise River floodplain. It is bounded by Eckert Road on the west, Highway 21 on the northeast, the

M A S T E R

BOISE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL

DEFINITION: These may be areas, sites and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship or feeling, and are associated with local and state history, archaeology, and culture.

Site/Area being evaluated _____

Location _____

Criteria Number	Evaluation Criteria	*Criteria Weight	*Quality of Feature (0-6 pts)	Total Points
1	Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or state history	3		
2	Is significant due to the information it yields, or is likely to yield, which is important in pre-history or history, and/or the interpretation of that information	2		
3	Is designated on the National Register of Historic Places or other local or state designated list of historic properties	2		
4	Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past	1		

* NOTE: Each criteria is weighted based on its estimated value to historic and archaeological quality. High Value = 3; Moderate Value = 2; Low Value = 1.

* NOTE: Assign a value from 0-6 to reflect the quality of each feature being evaluated. 0-2 = Low Quality; 3-4 = Average Quality; 5-6 = Good to Excellent Quality.

M A S T E R

BOISE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

BIOLOGICAL HABITAT/WETLANDS

DEFINITION: In general, characteristics for habitat may include food, shelter or water that supports desired flora and fauna. Characteristics for wetlands may include appropriate soils, flora and fauna typically associated with wetlands.

Site/Area being evaluated _____

Location _____

Criteria Number	Evaluation Criteria	*Criteria Weight	*Quality of Feature (0-6 pts)	Total Points
1	Contains or provides buffer for rare plant or animal species	3		
2	Contains a diversity of species	3		
3	Contains unique habitat features	3		
4	Provides a continuous biological corridor	3		
5	Provides a minimum critical area for sustaining important biological communities	3		
6	Supports a high density of one or more species	2		
7	Provides <u>important</u> habitat for migrating species	2		
8	Provides habitat for watchable wildlife	1		
9	Contains a wetland area or has the potential to be restored as a wetland #1	2		

* NOTE: Each criteria is weighted based on its estimated value to biological habitat/wetlands quality. High Value = 3; Moderate Value = 2; Low Value = 1.

* NOTE: Assign a value from 0-6 to reflect the quality of each feature being evaluated. 0-2 = Low Quality; 3-4 = Average Quality; 5-6 = Good to Excellent Quality.

BIOLOGICAL HABITAT/WETLANDS

ID #	Site Name (Site #)	Total Score (Max. - 132 points)
29	Canals (Ridenbaugh, New York) (32, 33)	40
30	Castle Rock (17)	33
31	Abandoned Railroad Track (19)	29

HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Ranking	Site Name (Site #)	Total Score (Max. - 48 points)
1	Oregon Trail (31)	47
2	Barber Dam & Barber Pool (28, 41)	43
3	Canals (Ridenbaugh, New York) (32, 33)	32
4	Cottonwood Creek - Military Reserve Extension (16)	30
5	Castle Rock (17)	29
6	Barber Flats (27)	29
7	Settler's Canal (Kid's Creek) (1)	27
8	Kelly Hot Springs (24)	26
9	Warm Springs Creek Drainage (25)	26
10	Table Rock (21)	26
11	Abandoned Railroad Track (19)	25
12	Peck Parcel (2)	25
13	Gulches (Pierce, Polecat, Stuart), Cottonwood Creek, Cottonwood Creek (4, 5, 7, 15, 16)	22
14	48th and River (3)	18
15	5 Mile Creek Area, 8 Mile Creek, Paris Lateral (35, 36, 37)	8

SCENIC AND AESTHETIC

Ranking	Site Name (Site #)	Total Score (Max. - 102 points)
1	Military Reserve Extension, Cottonwood Creek (14, 15)	84
2	Table Rock Area (20)	81
3	Peck Parcel (2)	81
4	Castle Rock (17)	77
5	Crestline Extension (12)	76
6	Parkinson Parcel (23)	75
7	Hulls Gulch and Extension (11)	74
8	Barber Dam, Boise River Southside, Barber Pool (28, 30, 41)	72
9	Rare Plant Reserve (6)	70
10	Table Rock (21)	69
11	Old Penitentiary Area (18)	68
12	Mount Cove Road (13)	68
13	Harrison Hollow (8)	62
14	Warm Springs Creek Drainage, Kelly Hot Springs, Barber Flats (25, 24, 27)	62
15	Greenbelt Portion (40)	62
16	Stuart Gulch (7)	61
17	Polecat Gulch (5)	56
18	Pierce Gulch (4)	52
19	48th and River (3)	50
20	Table Rock Toe (22)	50
21	Quinn's Ponds (9)	48
22	Southwest Boise Flats (34)	34
23	Ridenbaugh Canal (32)	30
24	New York Canal (33)	30
25	Rim Area (39)	29

SCENIC AND AESTHETIC

Ranking	Site Name (Site #)	Total Score (Max. - 102 points)
26	Barber Flats (26)	29
27	Cottonwood Creek - Military Reserve Extension (16)	24
28	Barber Flats Extended (29)	22
29	Settler's Canal (Kid's Creek) (1)	11
30	Slaughter House Area (10)	14
31	Abandoned Railroad Track (19)	10
32	Five Mile Creek (35)	8
33	Oregon Trail (31)	2
34	Eight Mile Creek (36)	0
35	Paris Lateral (37)	0