Every Drop Counts
Aquatic Center
REVITALIZATION
The Blaine County Recreation District (BCRD) launched its Aquatic Center Revitalization project in 2017 to fulfill the community need for aquatics by teaching more kids to swim, sustaining an accessible resource, renewing an aging facility and increasing facility capacity.

First constructed in 1985, today the pool welcomes more than 22,000 visits each summer and is the cornerstone of aquatic recreation for residents and visitors of the Wood River Valley.

With the generosity of foundations and individual donors, as well as BCRD budget allocations, every drop of support will bring this important project to fruition. Phase 1 of the project—renovating the bathhouse—is already complete. In Phase 2, we will renovate the existing pool, construct a new zero-depth-entry leisure pool and whirlpool, upgrade the mechanical systems, and improve the overall site.

Your contribution will ensure that our next generation will have access to this essential amenity—your investment in the BCRD Aquatic Center is an investment in our community!
It is critical that all kids learn to swim and stay safe in the water. In Idaho, drowning is the second leading cause of death among children, and our state is second only to Florida in its rate of drownings among children ages 1 to 5. Research has shown that participation in formal swim lessons can reduce the risk of drowning among young children. Quality, accessible, affordable swim instruction is of paramount importance and is in high demand in Blaine County.

Currently, more than 450 kids participate in lessons in the BCRD’s summer swim school, and another 100 hone their skills on the BCRD Dolphins swim team. Participation in these programs grows steadily every year. The proposed Aquatic Center Revitalization will allow the BCRD to expand its instructional swim programs by over 50 percent to accommodate this growth. By increasing capacity for swim instruction, the BCRD will provide more local children—especially those who are economically disadvantaged—the opportunity to learn this life-saving skill.

**GOAL:** Teach over 675 kids to swim each year
Centrally located in Blaine County’s most populous city and adjacent to the largest neighborhood of youth and socioeconomically challenged families, the BCRD Aquatic Center is in an ideal location. With a bike and pedestrian path and public transportation leading to its front door, the Aquatic Center is an easily accessible hub for all in our community.

Affordable programs and admission also keep the Aquatic Center accessible to all. In summer 2019, a child day pass is only $4, a family full-season pass is $183 and two weeks of swim lessons is just $42. Additionally, the BCRD offers financial assistance to those in need.

For other members of our community, the physical accessibility of the Aquatic Center’s amenities is a critical factor. To address these concerns, the BCRD added ADA-compliant accessibility features in the renovated bathhouse and included a new zero-depth-entry leisure pool in the Revitalization plan.
In a 2015 Blaine County survey, over 900 residents ranked Hailey and Bellevue in highest need of recreational opportunities and identified an aquatics facility as one of the top recreational needs in the area. Originally constructed over 30 years ago, the BCRD Aquatic Center has played a key role in the lives of Blaine County residents for over a generation and now requires structural and mechanical updates to meet the needs of our growing community. Restoring the existing pool’s interior finish, concrete decking, edging, and perimeter tile will improve its safety, performance, and overall patron experience for years to come.

When the Aquatic Center was built in 1985, the population of Blaine County was nearly half of what it is today. With the facility now operating at maximum capacity, seeing nearly 300 visits per day, additional space is necessary to meet public demand for the BCRD’s ever-popular aquatic programs. By expanding the Aquatic Center with a new leisure pool and whirlpool, the BCRD will accommodate concurrent aquatic programming, allowing more people across different user groups to learn to swim, exercise and enjoy the water at the same time.
Project Financials

Why invest in the BCRD Aquatic Center?

The Aquatic Center Revitalization addresses the growing need for water-based programming in Blaine County. The BCRD has a long history of operating vital recreational amenities in a financially responsible and sustainable way. From the Wood River Trail to Galena Lodge, it is easy to find examples of donor-supported BCRD projects that have become invaluable community assets. The maintenance and operation of the revitalized aquatic facility will be realized with the BCRD’s annual operating fund. The BCRD’s financial commitment, coupled with funds already raised, make the $2.5 million project a modest investment with a meaningful impact.

Your support will make this project a reality!

Funding Gap
$396,344

Individual & Foundation Contributions to date
$1,403,656

Bathhouse Renovation (completed) $500,000

BCRD Budget Commitment $200,000

Total Cost
$2,500,000

PHASE 1
A Bathhouse Renovation ..... $500k

PHASE 2
B Existing Pool Restoration .. $600k
C New Pool & Whirlpool ....... $930k
D Mechanical Updates .......... $85k
Demolition & Removals ...... $26k
Site Improvements .......... $207k
(fencing, landscaping, decking)
Contingency Funds .......... $152k

*AS OF MAY 2019
The BCRD is dedicated to enhancing Blaine County’s quality of life by creating healthy, active recreational opportunities for all. BCRD programs and facilities include the Aquatic Center, FitWorks and Gymnasium, Youth and Adult Sports and Activities, Galena Lodge, Galena Summer Trails, the Harriman Trail and the Wood River Trail.