

Fischer Pond is a project of the Cascade High School Advanced Biology Class

It didn't start out that way. Long ago the pond that the Cascade locals now call Fischer Pond was a very different place. In the late 90's Idaho Fish and Game Conservation Officer, George Fischer, saw just a dump site filled with trash on the outskirts of Cascade Idaho. He formed the vision of a community fishing pond and wildlife recreation area that it would soon become.

After two years of looking for grants and developing design plans, the recreation area finally came to life. The town adopted the project and volunteered many hours of hard labor. Cascade High School, the City Council, County Commissioners, DEQ, Fish and Game, County Road Crew, and various local excavators lent their support. The community of volunteers soon realized the impact that George Fischer had on them to create this oasis; so the City Council christened the new recreation area "Fischer Pond".

Cascade High School's Advanced Biology Class adopted the pond in the late 90's and has been working with the community to create a more enjoyable recreation area ever since. Over this time the Fischer Pond group in the Advanced Biology Class has completed many projects to improve the park.

Among the projects that have been completed are various efforts to make the park more Handicap Accessible. The most significant of these are the Handicap Access Dock, the benches, and the paving of the Handicap dock trail.

Other projects are for habitat improvement. Recently the "Fischer Pond" group received a grant of \$15,000 from Fish America and their partner Pro-Line Fishing to invest in the pond. Plans were drawn and a big picture painted. The plans were designed to improve the water quality of the pond. A make-shift well was ex-

cavated and two pumps installed to pump water into two artificial streams. The two streams lead to the pond after tumbling over some constructed rapids. This improved the pond water quality by cooling and oxygenating the water.

A sprinkler system was installed throughout the park, and in areas that are planned for future landscaping. The fish viewing aquarium was built as an educational feature of Fischer Pond, which adds another form oxygenating the pond through a meandering stream from the aquarium to the pond.

Fischer Pond is an on-going process. The Fischer Pond group has laid sod in large areas, and planted trees for shading in addition to blocking the view of the nearby highway. We've also planted many shrubs that are native to the area. Our main goal with landscaping is to maintain and enhance a native atmosphere for wildlife to prosper in; and in doing so the park keeps a natural and rustic look through every season.

The Advanced Biology Class hopes to maintain a natural theme at Fischer Pond, while creating a family recreational area. Horseshoe pits and a sand volleyball court have been built and are constantly used by vacationers and locals during the summer.

The Fischer Pond Group also partnered with the Construction Crew in the Advanced Biology class to build benches and picnic tables to place around the area. The Construction Crew has also built fencing to surround Fischer Pond for safety from outside vehicles, and mark paths in the park itself. In the future the Fischer Pond Group hopes to partner with the Construction Crew to build a gazebo.

The Fischer Pond group hopes to improve the landscape surrounding the pond and continue to improve the quality of the water in the pond. The addition of light structures throughout the pond has also been considered and is still on the drawing boards.

The Fischer Pond group hopes to perfect the maintenance routine for the summer and future years. We hope to partner with other organizations to better the community of Cascade, Idaho.

LANDSCAPING

The city donated the dirt that was the foundation for the 2000 sq. ft. of sod. The sod was donated by Hans Borbonus of Cloverdale Nursery. Students dug trenches and holes for the sprinkler system, and raked the areas where the sod was to be laid.

A berm was also built in the middle of the field to obstruct the view of the highway from the pond and park area. Volunteers from the community helped the students of Cascade High lay the sod. They also helped plant trees, shrubs, and flowers, which were also donated by Hans Borbonus. Rocks and logs were also placed on the berm to create a more natural scenery.

In the process of this all we also attempted to create a fly-fishing pond on the southern edge of the park. In time, the fly-fishing pond transformed into a natural wetland; something even professionals struggle at achieving. Fencing was installed around the front side of Fischer Pond, and is still being installed on the north and east sides of the pond. Dredging has become an ongoing process at Fischer Pond. Our hope is to decrease algae growth by deepening the pond through the dredging.



Visit the Cascade Chamber website;
www.cascadechamber.com

Fischer Pond In CASCADE

Lake Cascade
Recreation Area
IDAHO

Enjoy your time exploring
Cascade, Long Valley and
the Boise National Forest.

IDAHO
www.visitidaho.org

13-III-03-2M

For additional information on Idaho call 1-800-VISIT-ID

GO FISHING

Fischer Pond is a great place to fish and the public is welcome. The Pond is stocked by the Idaho Fish & Game Department. You can fish from the dock or the shore. Pathways and the dock are handi-cap accessible. Idaho state fishing regulations do apply.

PLAY SOME VOLLEYBALL

The sand volleyball court is available on a first come, first serve basis. A ball is kept in the cupboard by the parking lot, please replace the ball.

THROW A HORSESHOE (Carefully Please)

The horseshoe pits are available too. Shoes and backboards are in the equipment cupboard, please put them back.

BARBEQUE SOMETHING

The public is welcome to use the barbeque. Please read the posted instructions and clean up when you are done.

LAUNCH YOUR RAFT or.....

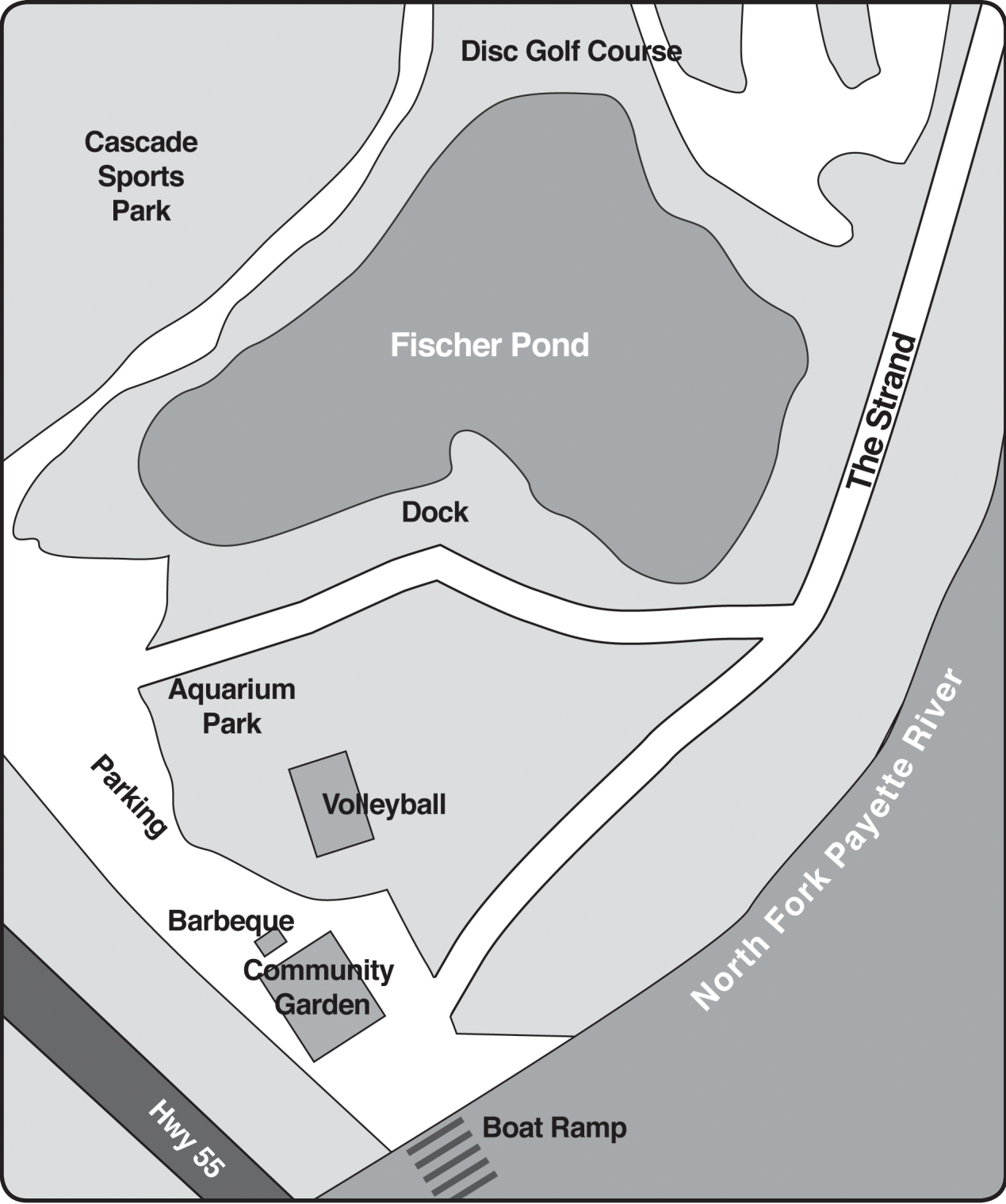
Float the Payette, the boat ramp is near the bridge. Downriver from here, the next takeout is at the Cabarton Bridge, several miles downstream, and it can be a several hour float, depending on the current volume of the river.

THE CASCADE SPORTS PARK

Ball fields are next door to the north, along with a kid’s playground.

DISC GOLF COURSE

A short walk upriver on The Strand gets you to a mail box with a course map.



THE STRAND

Take a walk along the Payette River. The Strand is a 2.25 mile walking & bicycling path along the Payette River. The Strand runs right thru Kelly’s Whitewater Park where you can watch those crazy kayakers doing tricks on the man-made waves.

AQUARIUM

Enjoy viewing the fish via the underwater window. The Aquarium was built by Idaho Fish and Game Department and the Cascade High School Biology Department.

WINDMILL

The windmill, painted purple and gold the school colors for Cascade, aerates the water in the pond. This aeration reduces the algae growth and oxygenates the water for the fish.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Local gardeners maintain the community garden and eat local.

**Park facilities are available free 24/7.
Camping is not allowed.**

Many individuals and organizations have helped to build and improve the park. Kudo’s especially to;

- George Fischer
- Idaho Fish & Game
- Clint Kennedy
- Cascade High School Advanced Biology Class
- Southern Valley County Recreation District
- Road Runner Ready Mix
- Granite Construction
- Olson Excavation
- Hans Borbonus
- Cloverdale Nursery
- City of Cascade
- Idaho Power
- And many, many others