

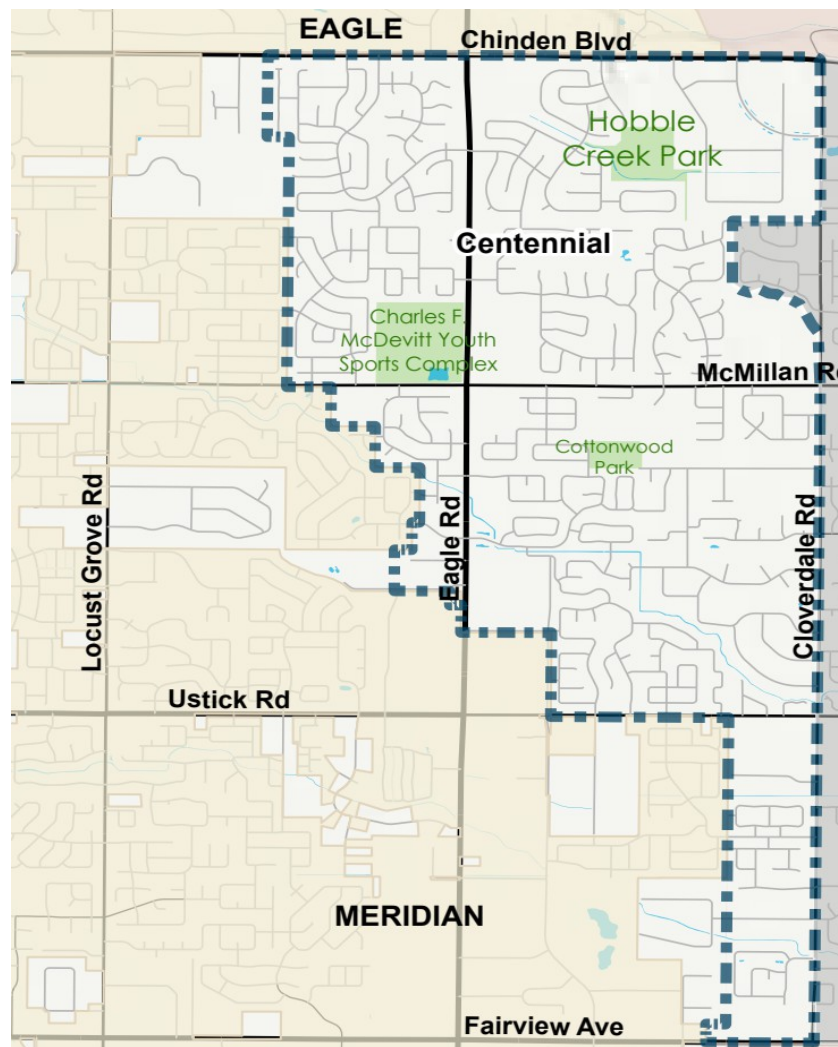
Let's Complete Charles F. McDevitt Park
5101 N. Eagle Rd. Boise, ID 83713



Parcels S0529449100 (20 acres), + S0529449353 (17.96 acres) = 37.96 acres. (Ada County Assessor)

7.59 acres or approximately 20% of McDevitt Park is unfinished and has been for over 20 years. It is currently just bare dirt, weeds, clump grass and abandoned infrastructure. This unfinished piece is an unattractive, unusable and possibly dangerous area in what is otherwise a beautiful park.

This is one of only three parks in the Centennial Neighborhood Association (CTNA) boundaries.



- The land McDevitt sits on was annexed in 1999.
- Most of the park was finished in 2001.
- Impact fees from new construction have been assessed and are available.
- Over 10 years later, in 2013 money was in the budget to finish McDevitt. The Boise Parks and Recreation (BPR) master plan for McDevitt included 3 lacrosse fields to be built in the unfinished area in association with a local lacrosse league. That plan fell through.
- Another 10 years after that, in 2023, BPR again had money in the budget to finish the park, but needed a new master plan. This was put on hold because of a “capacity issue” or staffing shortage to manage the community outreach needed to develop a new plan.
- In July of 2023, the CTNA appeared before the Boise City Council at the FY2024 budget hearing to request the park be completed in FY2024 and not pushed back again. The City Council denied the request. However Eric Bilimoria, Boise Budget Manager, said McDevitt was scheduled in FY2025, but he qualified that by saying it was “dependent upon collection of development impact fees.”(1) When asked, Karen Bledsoe, BPR, said that there was \$1.2M in FY2023 for McDevitt and that by FY2025 it was projected to be “over \$1.4M.” It was asked if that meant planning in FY2024 for installation in FY2025 and she did not disagree. (2)
- Each year, the park is not completed, the \$1.2M in impact fees buys less and less. BPR says installation costs have gone up 40% since 2021. We were told by BPR that they currently forecast \$100K per acre for irrigation and turf, so just grass for the bare area in McDevitt could

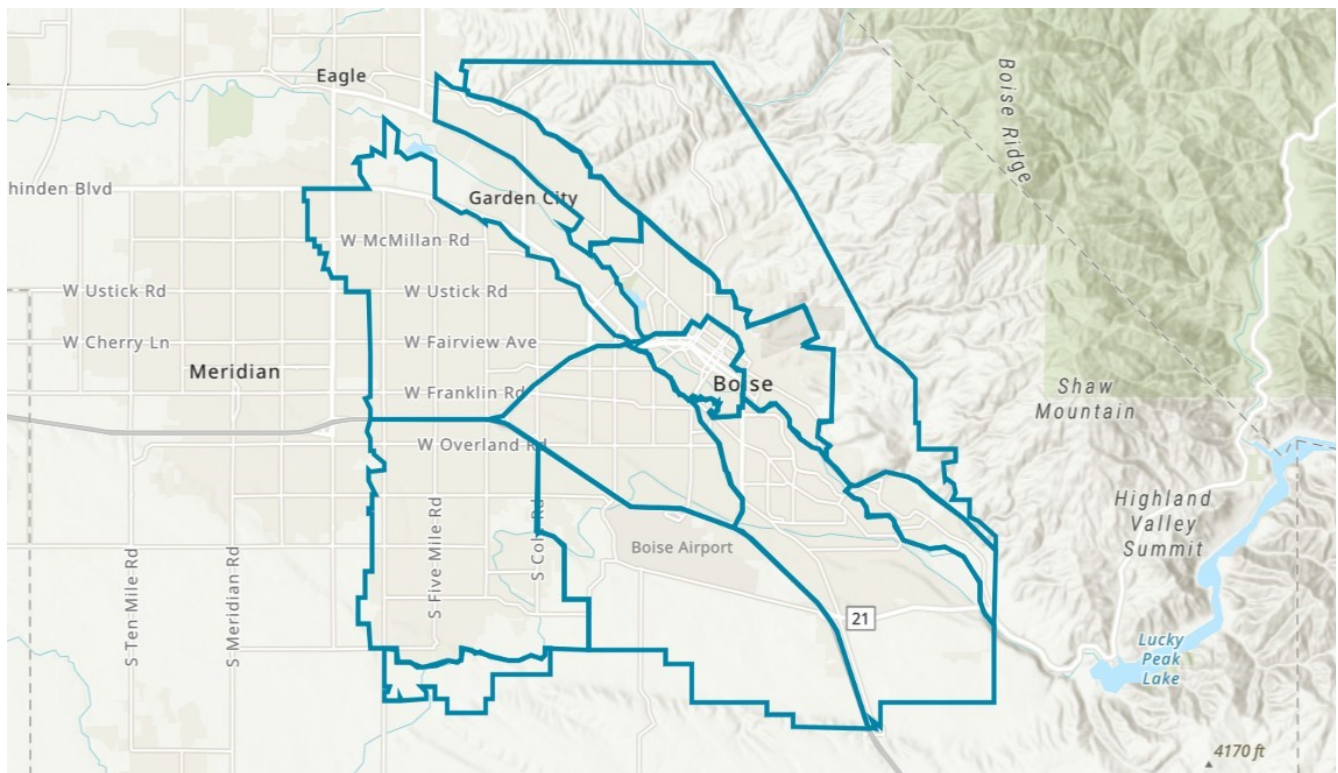
cost over \$750,000 today.

- While McDevitt continues to be unfinished for over 23 years, the city has purchased, improved and finished parks in other areas of the city. Some improvements are as extravagant as a splash pad and free Wi-Fi.

Impact fees are charges assessed for the impact that new development makes on the City of Boise's regional parks, local parks, fire department and police department. New residential development pays all four impact fee types, because they impact all four services. Commercial development pays only fire and police impact fees, because it typically does not directly impact regional and local parks.

The city's park service area extends to the city's area of impact boundaries and is segregated by two types of park systems – Regional Parks and Local Parks. However, since local parks are intended to serve smaller geographic areas with different capital facility requirements and growth patterns, there are five (5) separate local park fee areas – each with separate impact fees. This means the local park impact fees charged in any of the service areas pay only for the infrastructure which provides the direct benefit to that area. For example, the Northwest Local Park only funds parks in the Northwest service area.

So, the impact fees from our area will go to area parks, but that might mean impact fees earmarked for and we assumed would go to finish McDevitt, may in fact be diverted to buy or improve other parks inside the planning area, but outside the CTNA, such as Spaulding Ranch Park. Eric Bilimoria stated that “there are other projects within that planning area.”(3) Councilmember Hallyburton says that “There's a priority list.”(4) Here is a map of the impact fee planning areas:



Currently, we're being told that the reason McDevitt is being delayed is because of “capacity issues” or lack of staffing. Councilmember Colin Nash encourages us to “stay engaged.”(5) His advice is good. Mayor Lauren McLean said that Spaulding Ranch Park, acquired in 2016, a favorite of Boise City

Councilmember Nash, is “being pushed forward.”(6) McDevitt continues to be pushed back.

(1) July 11th, 2023 Boise City Council Meeting- FY2024 Budget.

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(2) July 11th, 2023 Boise City Council Meeting- FY2024 Budget.

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(3) July 11th, 2023 Boise City Council Meeting- FY2024 Budget.

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(4) July 11th, 2023 Boise City Council Meeting- FY2024 Budget.

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(5) July 11th, 2023 Boise City Council Meeting- FY2024 Budget.

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(6) July 11th, 2023 Boise City Council Meeting- FY2024 Budget.

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