

Transportation

Introduction

This component of the Comprehensive Plan considers the location and condition of the existing traffic circulation system. The relationship between land use and transportation is an important factor to be considered when planning for the future. The type and availability of resources are considerable factors in land-use development patterns, while (conversely) the way land is used influences the need and location of new transportation corridors.

Inventory

Roadway System

Public highway agencies and cities have classified roads and highways throughout Adams County according to their functional usage characteristics. Rural roads are defined as routes outside of urban areas (places with a population greater than 5,000).

This functional classification groups streets and roads according to factors of access and mobility. It divides roadways into principal arterials (for primary movement), minor arterials (distributors), collectors, and local roads.

Highway 95 and Highway 55 are designated as rural principal arterials. The remaining roadways within the city limits of New Meadows are designated local collector streets.

New Meadows has approximately 6 miles of graveled streets within the city corporate limits. The fact that these roads are gravel can lead to air quality issues in the summer months. Peterson Memorial Avenue, which is located on the major route to school, was

paved in 2016. The city has a Dust Abatement Plan approved by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. These roads are maintained by city personnel. Roads surrounding the city limits are improved and maintained by the Adams County Road and Bridge Department (except Federal Highway 95 and State Highway 55, which are maintained by the Idaho Transportation Department, District #3).

Airport

A state-owned airstrip is located approximately ½ mile north of downtown New Meadows. This 2,400-foot strip is surfaced with turf, and is classified as a community access airport. The strip is at an elevation of 3,908 feet.

Alternative Transit Modes

New Meadows does not provide a specific transportation network for alternative transit vehicles, such as bicycles. The city has improved sidewalks along Virginia Street with ADA ramps and improved sidewalks.

The Weiser River Trail, located approximately two miles outside of New Meadows to the west, provides a path for cyclists, horses, and pedestrians. The 84-mile trail follows the old P&IN Railroad and ends in Weiser.

West Central Mountains Economic Development Council is currently working on a Pathways project, in which they are identifying and mapping pathways for multiple forms of transportation including skiing, biking, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiles, and more. The goal is to eventually connect these pathways to the Weiser River Trail and also possibly connect Meadows Valley to McCall via Bear Basin or other yet to be determined pathways.

Future Conditions

A population increase would indicate that there will be a need for additional roads in the community. Maintenance and improvement of roadways in the community may be necessary. Plans for paving the gravel city streets are currently awaiting funding for the completion of a new storm water drainage system design.

Transportation Goal Statement

Transportation facilities designed and located for safe, efficient movement of people and goods must accompany residential, commercial, industrial, and public development while recognizing the unique character of the New Meadows community.

1 Policies

- 1.1 The city should review its subdivision ordinance routinely to ensure that it effectively address transportation concerns (e.g., right-of-way widths, street widths, access control, stormwater drainage, etc.).
- 1.2 The city should encourage the design and construction of local streets that complement the traffic patterns of existing neighborhood streets.
- 1.3 The city should work cooperatively with the Idaho Transportation Department and the Adams County Road and Bridge Department to plan transportation corridors pertaining to New Meadows.
- 1.4 The city should routinely review the transportation master plan.
- 1.5 The city should prepare a plan for the order in which city streets will be paved based on traffic flow, safety, and congestion.
- 1.6 The city should construct an entrance road to the industrial park as far away from the school facilities as possible, as well as developing a safe and efficient school route for pedestrians.
- 1.7 The city should look at developing bike paths and adding additional sidewalks to improve ADA accessibility and safe routes to school.
- 1.8 The city should look at its street lighting and pedestrian safety issues.
- 1.9 The city should look at ways of establishing a transit system to neighboring communities and resorts.
- 1.10 The city should maintain the approved dust abatement plan.
- 1.11 The city should work with Idaho Transportation Department to develop an access management plan for the SH 55/95 Corridors to protect the long term capacity of the State Highway System.
- 1.12 The city should develop subdivision and design standards to establish separation distances between approaches and establish development practices that encourage site access from the adjacent local streets.

Recreation, Parks & Open Space

Introduction

Parks and recreational opportunities are of interest to the citizens of New Meadows and visitors to the area because of the numerous benefits provided therein. These facilities are a significant factor in contributing to the overall quality of life and attract visitors to the area. Providing for parks and recreation facilities requires the acquisition and development of land, along with funding for the maintenance of developed facilities.

Existing Conditions

The city's location and climate are favorable located in a large outdoor recreation area and coincide with opportunities to enjoy large recreational areas. The city has one 2-acre public park located on the main thoroughfare (Highway 95). Recreational facilities at the park include one large play structure, one swing set, and several picnic tables. Trees were planted in the park and the city encourages upkeep, maintenance, and replacement when necessary. An informational kiosk has been developed in the Dorsey Warr Memorial Park as well. Restroom facilities are available but do not yet meet full Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements.

The Meadows Valley School District 11 serves to relieve some of the park deficiency with 7 acres of school ball fields, playgrounds, and playground equipment. A 16-acres unimproved county park (Packer John's Park) is located 4 miles east of the city.

In 2018, the Adams County Board of Commissioners approved funds to improve Packer John's Cabin state park. Meadows Valley students created interpretive signs for each of the campsites and students and community members work each spring to ready the campground for visitors.

Area recreational opportunities include Zims Hot Springs; Ponderosa State Park (near McCall, Idaho); the Payette, Nez Perce, and Boise National Forests; Hells Canyon National Recreation Area; Tamarack Resort; Little Ski Hill; and Brundage Ski Mountain (see Table 10). New Meadows is located in an area of Idaho that offers countless outdoor recreational opportunities such as big-game hunting, back-country camping, white-water float trips, jet boating, fishing, skiing, swimming, and snowmobiling. The Weiser River Trail is also available for bicycling, walking, and horseback riding.

Table 10. Area Recreational Opportunities

<u>Location</u>	<u>Distance (Miles)</u>
Meadow Creek Golf Resort	2
McCall Municipal Golf Course	16
Whitetail Golf Club	14
Osprey Meadows Golf Course at Tamarack	24
Weiser River Trail	3
Zim's Hot Springs	4
Lost Valley Reservoir	8
Goose Lake Trail Head	8
Adams County Historical Depot	0
Weiser River Trail Head	3
Ponderosa State Park	12
Payette National Forest	0
Nez Perce National Forest	5
Boise National Forest	25
Hells Canyon National Recreation Area	42
Little Ski Hill	8.5
Brundage Mountain Ski Resort	12
Tamarack Resort	30

Future Conditions

The city's current park facilities do not meet conventional park standards of one acre per 100 residents. New Meadows is approximately 4 ½ acres below this national standard. Because of the abundant open spaces in Meadows Valley, a relaxed park standard may have been appropriate. As further subdivisions and annexations to the city are approved and the city increases in population, the demand for additional parks and recreational areas will intensify. Land could be acquired through gifts, purchasing, and subdivision requirements.

Approved playground equipment should be installed or constructed for use. Additional shade and a pavilion with adequate restrooms should be provided at the city park. A major ball field needs to be established to serve boys and girls teams as well as adult ball players during the summer vacation period. Ball fields, additional shade, pavilion, and other issues are being reviewed and addressed by the Parks & Recreation Committee and an increased cooperative effort between the city, Meadows Valley School, volunteers, and local organizations. The Meadows Valley School owns and operates two baseball fields as part of the Meadows Valley Youth Sports cooperative effort between the city and other organizations.

In 2019, the Parks & Recreation Committee, and volunteers from the school and community, were able to install new playground equipment, including a large play set and new swings. These were made possible by donations and fundraising efforts within our community.

The city is considering a bicycle / pedestrian pathway system to further serve the

recreational needs of city residents (see Figure 2 – Larger system map addendum in back of plan).

(from Andrew Mentzer):

Regional pathways connectivity is critical to economic development, community health and placemaking efforts in the West Central Mountains. Currently, Valley County has a "singletrack sidewalks" ordinance that can be used to connect the towns of Valley County to Northern Adams County and the Weiser River Trail. This platform allows for construction of a dirt "singletrack" trail in the public road right of way, meandering along the outer edge of the roadside drainage. It allows for pedestrians to get off of the road, and encourages more hiking, biking, and recreation in the community. Between this platform and the feasibility study to connect the Weiser River Trail into downtown New Meadows, several tools will be in hand that will allow for the expansion of trail miles across the region and enhance user access for many groups. No private property should be pursued in this model, except where a willing property owner would like to see the trail cross their land, and roadway drainage and functionality will be upheld through various well-established design elements. Cost of construction and maintenance is also significantly lower than with a paved path, although winter season typically forces closure of these paths due to snow. Establishing a trail system connection from the Meadows Valley to McCall would offer several meaningful enhancements and amenities to residents of North Adams County, as well as visitors.

Figure 2. Bicycle/Pedestrian Pathway System

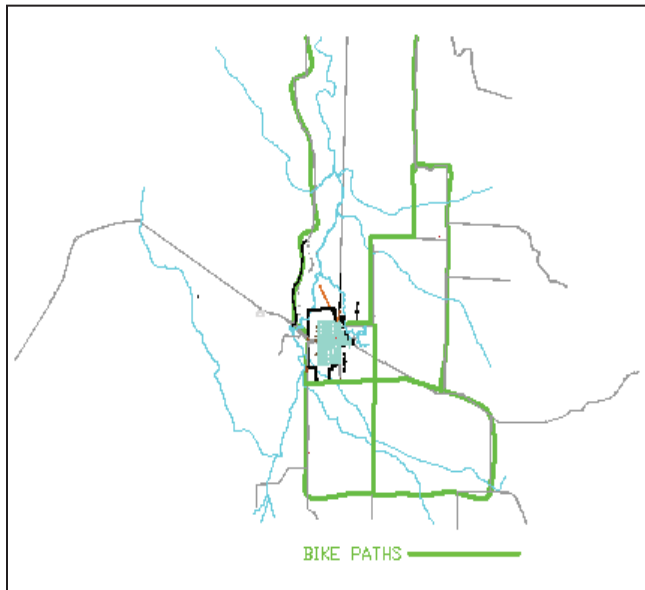


Table 11. Arts & Cultural Venues

<u>Location</u>	<u>Distance (miles)</u>
Adams County Historical Depot	0
Packer John's Cabin	3
Historic United Methodist Church	0
New Meadows Community Center	0
Dorsey War Memorial Park	0
Brundage Mountain Music Festival	12
Council Mountain Music Festival	23
Historical Heigho Mansion	0

RECREATION GOAL STATEMENT

To promote public recreation opportunities that respond to the needs of the community.

1 Policies

- 1.1 The city should encourage and support the continued improvements to the "restrooms" located just off U.S. Highway 95 at the city park.
- 1.2 The city should continue to plan for future park and recreational demands.

- 1.3 The city should promote the development of joint city-school-county parks and other types of recreational facilities through the Parks and Recreation Coalition.
- 1.4 The city should seek alternative financial sources and volunteer support from the community to provide professional assistance, equipment, and labor to plan and develop desired city park improvements and additional parking spaces.
- 1.5 Due to the future developments coming to New Meadows, the city should intensify the search for additional land for parks and open spaces.
- 1.6 The city should promote community recreational activities that enhance the city's commerce.
- 1.7 The city should encourage the construction of bike and pedestrian pathways throughout the valley.
- 1.8 The city should promote and preserve open space areas within the community.
- 1.9 The city should encourage the Weiser River Trail to come to town.
- 1.10 The city should create requirements for pocket parks and open spaces in future construction and development of residential and commercial areas.

**Table 12. Traditional Outdoor Recreation;
Camping, Hiking, Fishing & Hunting**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Distance (miles)</u>
Goose Lake	16
Grouse Lake Campground	18
Lost Valley Reservoir	12
Meadow Creek Pond	2
Goose Creek	3
Weiser River Trail	3
Hazard Lake Campground	33
Goose Creek Falls Trailhead	10
Fish Lake	10
Little Salmon River	8
Twin Lakes Trailhead	9
Lost Valley Creek	11
Weiser River	11
Cold Springs Campground	12
Evergreen Campground	12
Last Chance Campground	12
Brundage Reservoir	15
Grass Mountain Trailhead	25
Big Hazard Lake Trailhead	27
Burgdorf Campground	28
Brownlee Reservoir	73
Woodhead Park Campground	73
McCormick Park Campground	76
Oxbow Reservoir	87
Copperfield Park Campground	87
Hells Canyon Park	101
Wye Trailhead Campground	8