

## **Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Planning for the Future of the Rodeo Grounds in Hailey**

For over fifty years, we have enjoyed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Rodeo at the Rodeo Grounds in Hailey, thanks to the efforts of the Sawtooth Rangers and community volunteers. The rodeo event and arena are greatly valued by our community, as they retain a piece of the western heritage of Hailey.

Looking to the future, the Mayor and City Council have asked the Hailey Parks & Lands Board to coordinate a Master Plan for the rodeo grounds property that would allow the rodeo event to continue. Improvements proposed include:

- Improved Rodeo Arena that incorporates the current historical “white wall” into an improved multi-use facility that could be used for concerts and other special events, too
- Site for the refrigerated ice rink developed by Hailey Ice (an independent group of community volunteers)
- Expansion to the Hailey Skatepark that would create street skate elements for skaters of all abilities
- Public restrooms, visitor information, and green space for casual picnics
- Improved parking and circulation

The City of Hailey, which owns most of the property where the rodeo arena and parking areas are located, has historically leased the property to the Sawtooth Rangers, who have produced the rodeo events, built and maintained the arena facilities. That lease is due to expire in 2010. The Parks & Lands Board, in association with the Sawtooth Rangers, Hailey Ice, and Hailey skateboarders, is working on a property layout that would provide a community year-round outdoor multi-use arena and other recreation amenities. The Board needs professional design assistance to create a visual representation of the draft plan, and would welcome any volunteer assistance.

A Community Recreation Survey was recently mailed with the city utility bills to gauge public opinion on improvements to the rodeo grounds and how they might be financed. The survey is also available by contacting City Hall at 788-4221.

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