

## Recreation

The Snake River in Idaho Falls offers recreational opportunities like boating, kayaking, fishing, biking, and walking. The Idaho Falls Parks and Recreation Department and Idaho Falls Power collaborate on projects to enhance access and preserve habitat. Idaho Falls Power operates hydroelectric plants at four locations along the river. This guide highlights activities and amenities to help residents and visitors make the most of what Idaho Falls has to offer.

**HELP STOP THE  
SPREAD OF AQUATIC  
INVASIVE SPECIES**



# Idaho Falls Snake River Recreation Map

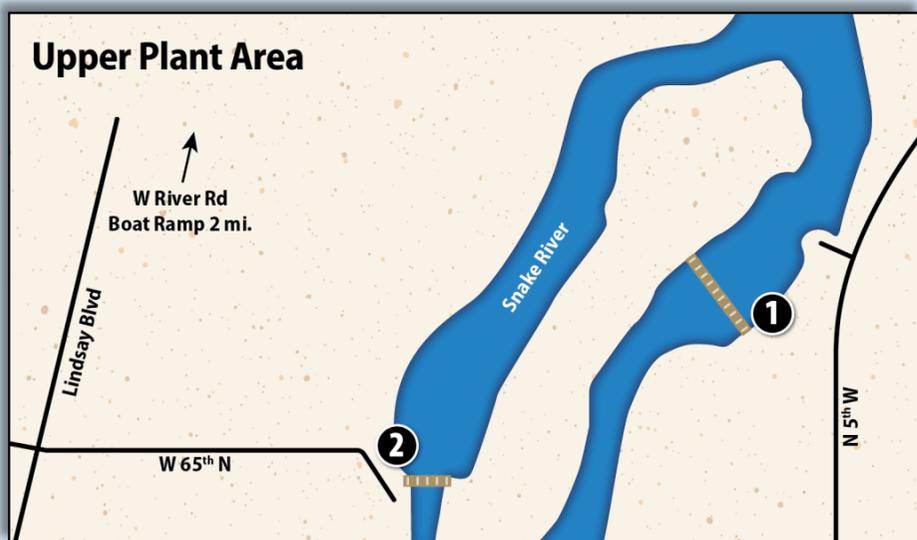


### Interpretive Signs

For more than a century, Idaho Falls Power has used water in the Snake River to generate electricity for homes and businesses in the city. That history is on display in a series of interpretive panels along the river. The panels highlight significant steps in the utility's evolution.

[www.ifpower.org](http://www.ifpower.org)

[www.ifrec.org](http://www.ifrec.org)



### **1** East Upper Plant

This area off East River Road features a small boat ramp just above the Upper Plant diversion dam. It provides access for boating and fishing. There is a small ungraded parking area.



### **4** Lower Gem Lake Marina

Gem Lake is formed by the Gem State Hydropower Plant. It is popular for boating, water skiing, personal watercraft, fishing, and ice fishing in the winter. The recreation area has a boat launch, docks, lawn area, picnic shelters and tables, and firepits.



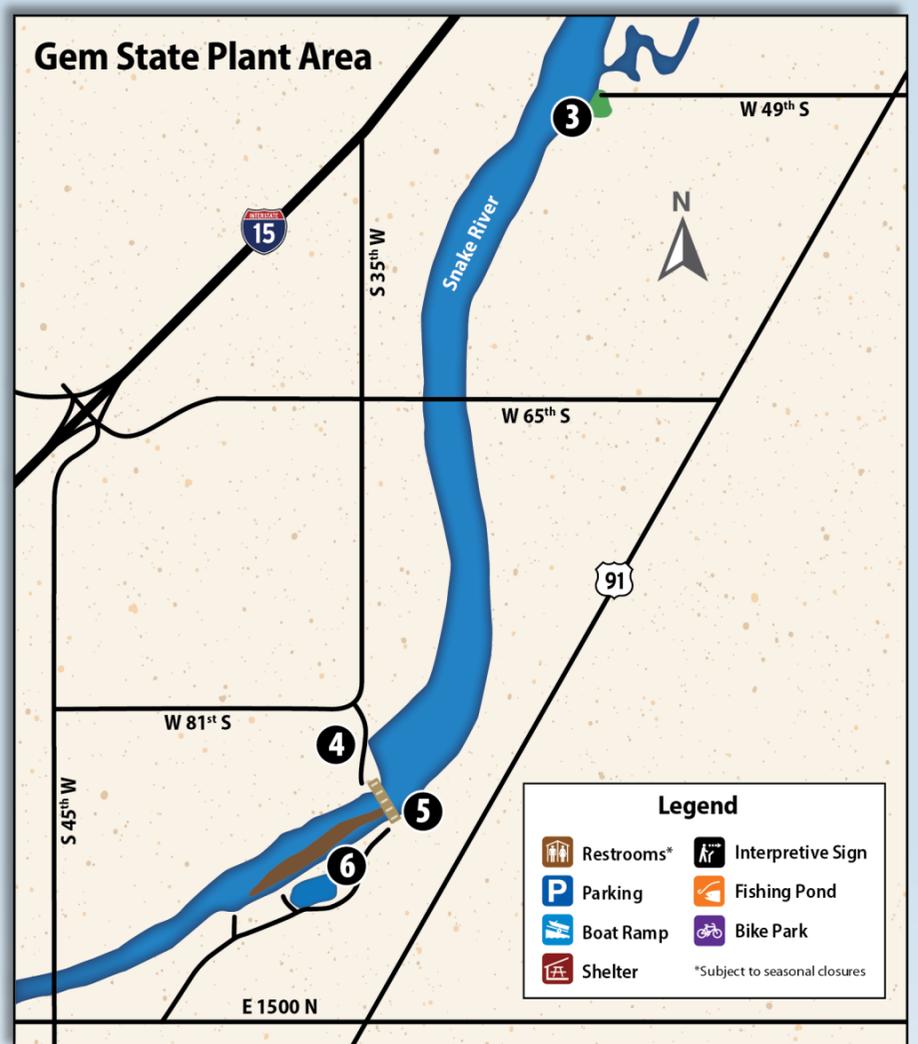
### **2** West Upper Plant

The West Upper Plant area provides access for fishing and hiking. Visitors can explore the large island in the Snake River. There is a parking area with restroom facilities.



### **3** Upper Gem Lake Marina

Located 2.25 miles upstream from the Gem State Plant. The area features three picnic shelters, a lawn area, boat launch, and restrooms. Boating, water skiing, and fishing are popular. The area also provides access to the Gem Lake Bike Park, which hosts a variety of technical features for the up and coming mountain biker.



#### Legend



### **5** Gem State Plant

Construction on the fifth city-owned hydroelectric plant began in 1985. The powerhouse uses a vertical Kaplan turbine, as opposed to bulb turbines at the city's other plants. Gem State Plant started generating electricity in October of 1988 and is the largest of the city-owned plants.



### **6** Gem State Fishing Pond

The five-acre pond is stocked with several varieties of fish. Idaho Falls Power and Idaho Fish and Game work in collaboration to manage fish populations in the pond. Nesting platforms, trees, and grasslands provide habitat for wildlife and waterfowl. The fishing pond also has several picnic tables and an ADA accessible fishing platform.



## 7 Russel Freeman Park

A Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the centerpiece of this 57-acre park on the north side of Idaho Falls. The park also features a band shelter, disc golf, playground, baseball diamonds, parking areas, EV charging, and picnic shelters. A road system connects all areas of the park providing access to fishing and cross-country skiing and sledding in the winter.



## 8 John's Hole

The four-acre area contains two large boat ramps with parking for 32 vehicles and EV charging. The area is popular for boating, swimming, and fishing. The swimming area is at the northern end.



## 9 Friendship Garden at Pedersen Park

The garden is situated on an island and was developed to celebrate 30 years of association with our Japanese sister city, Tokai-Mura, and to encourage friendship with people throughout the world. It features a Japanese pavilion, garden gate, and lantern. It also has water features and ornamental trees and shrubs.



As a historical crossing, this island also marks the site of the first bridge to span the Snake River in eastern Idaho. A replica of the original Taylor Toll Bridge now connects the island to the river's west bank, preserving a piece of history.



## 12 Rock Gardens

The Rock Gardens at Taylor Crossing features unique landscaping that creates a peaceful setting along the west side of the Snake River below the Broadway bridge. The city repurposed several tons of lava rock from the Gem State Hydro Project to build the retaining walls and grassy terraces that make the area a great place to spend time in nature.

## 13 South Tourist Park

The eight-acre park is a combination overnight/day area. During the day, the boat launch and picnic areas get plenty of use. It has 16 camping areas for overnight use and an RV Dump Station.



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## Idaho Falls River Walk

The Idaho Falls River Walk is a beloved feature of downtown, offering over seven miles of scenic walking and biking paths along both sides of the Snake River. Stretching from Freeman Park south to Ryder Park, it connects parks, gardens, and key landmarks. Visitors enjoy picturesque views of the falls that inspired the city's name, as well as picnic areas, benches, and a unique seasonal floating bridge beneath Highway 20. In the summer, the band stage hosts community concerts and events.

## 10 City Plant

The City Plant was built in 1912 and rebuilt in 1982, six years after it sustained flood damage in the Teton Dam disaster. It's just south of the Broadway Bridge in downtown Idaho Falls near the Friendship Garden at Pedersen Park and the replica of the Taylor Toll Bridge. EV chargers available.



## 11 South Capital Park

South Capital Park is an eight-acre park on the east side of the river. It's just south of the City Plant and features parking, restrooms, playground equipment, picnic tables, shelter, and benches overlooking the river.



## 14 Lower Plant

Originally constructed in 1938, it is located two miles downstream from the City Plant. The Idaho Falls River Walk runs past the plant. There are no developed areas at the plant site, but the riverbanks around the plant are used for fishing.

## 15 Heritage Park

Heritage Park is the newest park in Idaho Falls. The 14-acre park highlights the natural, cultural, and historical heritage of Idaho Falls. A small pathway through the park provides additional opportunities to explore. In celebration of 100 years of Service Above Self – Rotary's motto – the Rotary Club of Idaho Falls assisted with the historic groundbreaking of Heritage Park in 2018.



## 16 Ryder Park

The park features two fishing ponds that are open to the public and easily accessible. The ponds are frequently stocked by Idaho Fish and Game, allowing kids and adults a greater chance of catching fish. The nearby Ryder Bike Park offers adventure for BMX and mountain bikers.



Legend	
	Restrooms*
	Parking
	Boat Ramp
	Shelter
	Interpretive Sign
	Fishing Pond
	EV Charging Station
	Bike Park
	River Walk
*Subject to seasonal closures	

