PORTAINE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Serving Bannock County Since 1940



Portneuf Soil & Water Conservation District

The goal of the Lava Trails Project is to improve approximately 1600 feet of trail system along the north and south banks of the Portneuf River through a three phased approach. The planning process began with members of the PSWCD meeting with representatives from the Lava Hot Springs Foundation and the City of Lava Hot Springs to discuss the current recreational opportunities within the city limits and the amount of use the current degraded trails were receiving. The PSWCD volunteered to take the lead on a project focusing on the improvement of the trails, as well as implementing proper signage, and fencing to control the crowds in a safe and orderly fashion. PSWCD also noted the need to reclaim several of the access points, noting that they were degraded and had become unsafe. PSWCD determined the necessity of fencing the trail system; thereby providing order and increasing safety for the large number of tourists utilizing the system during the peak season. Phase 1 of the project includes Riparian Fencing, 4 access points as well as a floating dock and observation deck. The PSWCD will select a local professional contractor to improve the trails, build the fence, install one floating dock, and one observation deck. Phase 1 of the project is scheduled to be implemented during the fall of 2016, with two more phases scheduled to occur in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Project Overview



Thanks to our Partners

- Financial Partners
 - Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
 - Lava Hot Springs Foundation
 - City of Lava Hot Springs
- Project Support Partners
 - Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
 - Conservation Basics
 - KT Excavation, LLC
 - ST Construction
 - Baker Ranch, LLC
 - Riley's Construction







Project Map





STEEP RIVER ACCESS POINT

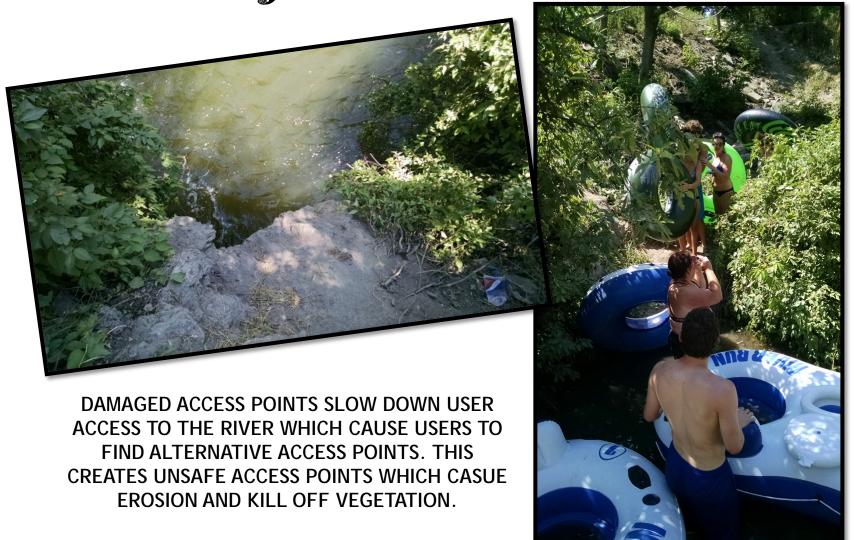


VIEW FROM SOUTH SIDE OF RIVER



DAMAGED RIVER ACCESS POINT







Pre-Project Trail Condition



SOUTH VIEW OF COVE & ACCESS POINTS # 3 & # 4

ACCESS POINTS # 3 & # 4 ARE THE MOST POPULAR AND MOST DANGEROUS POINTS TO ENTER THE RIVER. NO VEGETATION REMAINS ON THE BANK AND STEP TRAILS TO EACH ACCESS POINT ARE DANGEROUS.













VIEW LOOKING UPRIVER FROM ACCESS POINT # 4
ACCESSING THE RIVER FROM THIS POINT ALLOWS USERS TO RIDE OVER THE FALLS
INTO THE COVE WHERE ACCESS POINT # 3 IS LOCATED.



Access Point # 1 Construction







IMPROVED TRAIL FROM MAIN PARKING AREA TO ACCESS POINT # 1.

IMPROVMENTS INCLUDE

- REGRADED TRAIL SLOPE
- HARDENED, PERMEABLE TRAIL SURFACE
- RIPARIAN FENCING
- ROCK RETAINING WALLS









Access Point # 2 Construction



IMPROVMENTS INCLUDE

- REGRADED TRAIL SLOPE
- HARDENED, PERMEABLE TRAIL SURFACE
- RIPARIAN FENCING
- ROCK RETAINING WALLS





Trail Construction







TRAIL CONSTRUCTION INCLUDES 600 + FEET OF RIPARIAN FENCING TO DIRECT USERS TO NEW ACCESS POINTS. THE NEW TRAIL SURFACE IS A HARDENED, PERMEABLE SURFACE TO HELP SLOW RUNOFF.



Observation Deck











VIEW OF ACCESS POINT # 3 FROM THE OBSERVATION DECK





Access Point # 3 Construction

IMPROVMENTS INCLUDE

- BUILDING A TRAIL ACROSS THE COVE TO CONNECT ACCESS POINTS # 3 & # 4.
- REGRADED TRAIL SLOPE
- HARDENED, PERMEABLE TRAIL SURFACE
- ROCK RETAINING WALLS











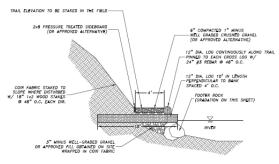
Access Point # 3 Construction







INSTALLATION OF THE LOG CRIB.



TRAIL PROFILE NEAR RIVER









Dock @ Access Point # 3

ACCESS POINT # 3 INCLUDES

- A 19' X 11' FLOATING DOCK
- REGRADED TRAIL SLOPE
- HARDENED, PERMEABLE TRAIL SURFACE
- ROCK RETAINING WALLS
- RIPARIAN FENCING











THE FLOATING DOCK IS
ANCHORED TO FOUR MORING
POSTS INSTALLED AT THE
RIVERS EDGE. THE DOCK IS
DESIGNED TO RISE AND FALL
WITH WATER LEVELS AND GIVES
USERS EASIER ACCESS INTO THE
RIVER.

Access Point # 4 Construction



VIEW OF TRAIL FROM ACCESS POINT # 3 TO ACCESS POINT # 4

ACCESS POINT # 4
TRAIL BASE



COMPLETED ACCESS POINT # 4

