

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Splash Park Ribbon Cutting Announced

The City of Ketchum invites the community to celebrate the installation of its newest recreation feature at Atkinson Park.

Who: Everyone

What: Ribbon cutting ceremony of new recreation feature

When: Wednesday, September 11 at 4:00 PM

Where: The new feature is located at Atkinson Park just south of Earnest Hemingway Elementary School in west Ketchum off of 8th Street.

Why: Thanks to the generosity of Mayor Randy Hall and the Ketchum City Council, the Blaine County Sheriff's office and the Blaine County School District, the Ketchum Parks & Recreation Department was able to finally execute a capital project that was initiated by former department director, Kirk Mason, in 2006. The City's partnership with the Blaine County Sheriff's Office for police services revealed \$141,167 of savings to the City of Ketchum. Mayor Randy Hall asked Parks & Recreation Director, Jen Smith, if her department had any capital projects that could be executed with the refund money and that would benefit the community's youth. \$26,460 had already been raised through private donations for the splash pad in 2006 but the economic recession caused the project to stall. The combined funds allowed a fully recirculating and professionally built splash pad for the community. Additionally, the Hemingway Elementary fifth grade Class of 2012 donated \$500 toward the project as its graduation gift to the school. (See attached for full press release.)

Visuals: Attached.

About the City of Ketchum

The City of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for both winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The City of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade held on Labor Day weekend and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the City of Ketchum, visit www.ketchumidaho.org.

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NO RUNNING



News Release

Splash Park Ribbon Cutting Announced

The City of Ketchum invites the community to celebrate the installation of its newest recreation feature at Atkinson Park.

KETCHUM, Idaho (September 10, 2013) – Come celebrate the installation of Ketchum's newest recreation feature - the splash pad at Atkinson Park just south of Hemingway Elementary School this Wednesday, September 11 at 4:00 - lucky kids who bring a swimsuit and towel can give it a try!

Thanks to the generosity of Mayor Randy Hall and the Ketchum City Council, the Blaine County Sheriff's office and the Blaine County School District, the Ketchum Parks & Recreation Department was able to finally execute a capital project that was initiated by former department director, Kirk Mason, in 2006. The City's partnership with the Blaine County Sheriff's Office for police services revealed \$141,167 of savings to the City of Ketchum. Mayor Randy Hall asked Parks & Recreation Director, Jen Smith, if her department had any capital projects that could be executed with the refund money and that would benefit the community's youth. \$26,460 had already been raised through private donations for the splash pad in 2006 but the economic recession caused the project to stall. The combined funds allowed a fully re-circulating and professionally built splash pad for the community! Additionally, the Hemingway Elementary fifth grade Class of 2012 donated \$500 toward the project as its graduation gift to the school.

A Grand Opening celebration will happen in the early summer when the surrounding landscaping matures; Wednesday's ribbon cutting is to show off the new feature before we winterize our irrigation system (and the splash pad) this fall.

With the blessing of the Blaine County School District and Hemingway Principal Don Haisley, Ketchum's parks and natural resources superintendent Juerg Stauffacher was able to contract the splash pad's construction in conjunction with the school's geothermal heating retrofit project. Economies of scale were achieved with excavation and other contracted work. Ketchum's Parks & Recreation Department is contracted to perform maintenance services for the School District at Atkinson Park which is largely owned by the district. The City department also runs youth and adult recreation programs at the City's largest public park.

CEM Aquatics from Salt Lake City, Utah was contracted through a competitive bidding process to construct the splash pad for \$153,950. The remaining balance of funds was used to complete landscaping around the new feature and will also be used to purchase a tether ball or ball basket so that when the splash pad is winterized, students may still take advantage of the approximately 700 square feet of concrete as a playground addition. A four square will be painted on the concrete for school recess use as well.

A fence is planned for the area to delineate the children's play area from the adjacent bike path and school parking lot.

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