

Petroglyphs

The staff at Celebration Park have assigned names to a lot of the petroglyphs in the park as an easy way to refer to them when speaking to viewers and students. The names are all arbitrary, remember nobody knows what any particular petroglyph means, what it may refer to or its cultural significance. Your interpretation of these enigmatic images is just as valid as ours or anyone else. Other images you may come across may include; a Star, Dragonfly, Chair, Holy Cross, Anthropomorphic, Lizard, and Figure-8.



Con Shea's Sheep

An image that some people think resembles a domestic ram. This image coincidentally aligns with the Con Shea Basin across the river from Celebration Park where sheep and cattle were first introduced into Idaho Territory.



The Rake

This image occurs at many places in the park with varying degrees of accumulated desert varnish indicating that this image has persisted for thousands of years.



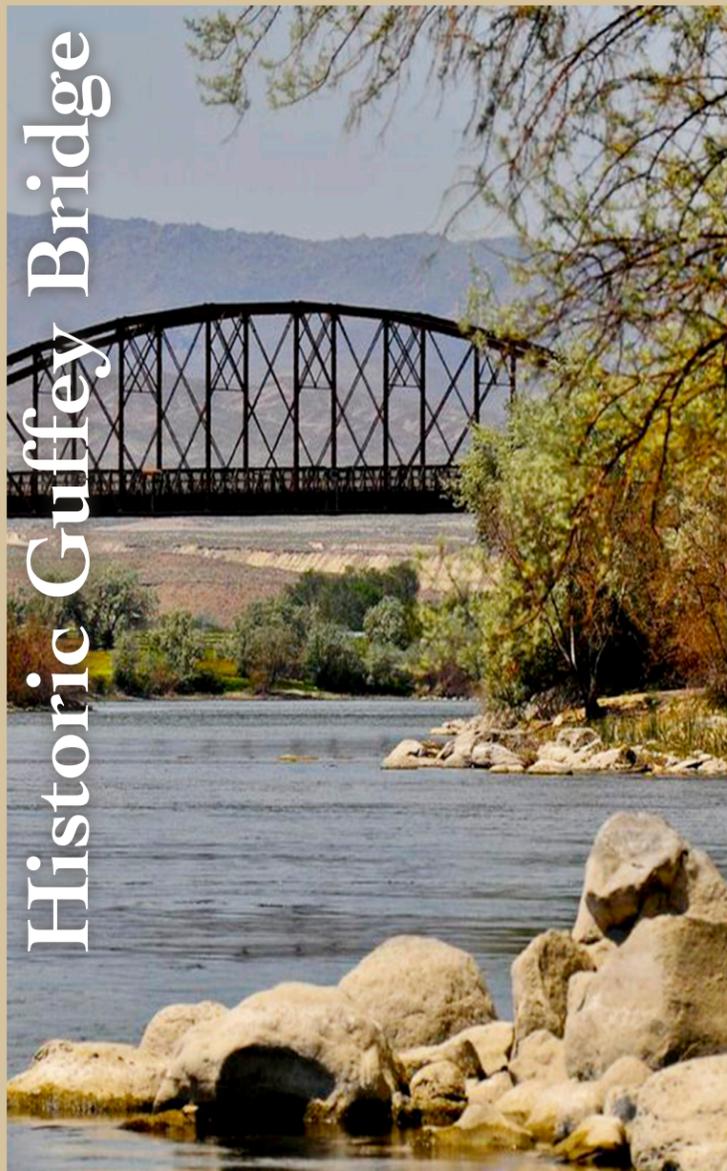
Roman Numeral II

An image that resembles the Roman Number II and a typical example of an image that occurs in many cultures around the world.



Hook and Dot

This image is found throughout the park and the rest of the canyon. It varies greatly indicating that this image has persisted for millennia.



Historic Guffey Bridge

Constructed began in 1897 for the **Boise, Nampa and Owyhee Railroad** (BN&O) Guffey Bridge. The bridge was built to carry trains loaded with gold and silver from Silver City. A Parker Through-Truss bridge design was chosen because of its load-bearing capability. Only five companies in the U.S. bid on the construction and Carnegie Steel, Later known as U.S. Steel, was awarded the bid. Pieces of the bridge we fabricated in Pittsburgh then shipped by rail to the site of the bridge on May 14, 1897. The bridge was **completed on September 1, 1897** and was the tallest railroad bridge in the nation at the time. By the time the bridge was completed the mines had played out and no cars ever crossed the bridge.

Both the BN&O the Guffey Bridge were instrumental in the economic development of southern Idaho. Abandoned when trains were no longer needed along that route, the bridge was saved by the Idaho State Historical Society and ultimately sold to Canyon County. Today the bridge is the recognizable landmark for Celebration Park and Idaho. It is an enduring reminder of the past and serves as a wonderful backdrop for early Idaho history lessons.

Activities

There are lots of activities for everyone to enjoy at Celebration Park. They range from day hiking trips to the historic Guffey Bridge to over night tent camping and enjoy all the park has to offer. The visitor center has more information about all the events there are to enjoy, so stop by and talk to one of the park rangers before planning your next trip to Celebration Park. For more information about the park please call us at 208-455-6022.

Atlatl

An ancient way of hunting, involving a spear on a long stick which is then slung at a target. Families can enjoy this exciting activity during the months the visitor center is open.



Hiking

There are lots of trails that take off from the Park that are great day hikes. A great hike is from the visitor center to the Guffey Bridge. Stop by the visitor center to learn more.



Camping

Tent camping is available from April to October and on a first come first serve basis. Sites are \$5 per night with a 3 night limit. Contact the Visitor center for more information.



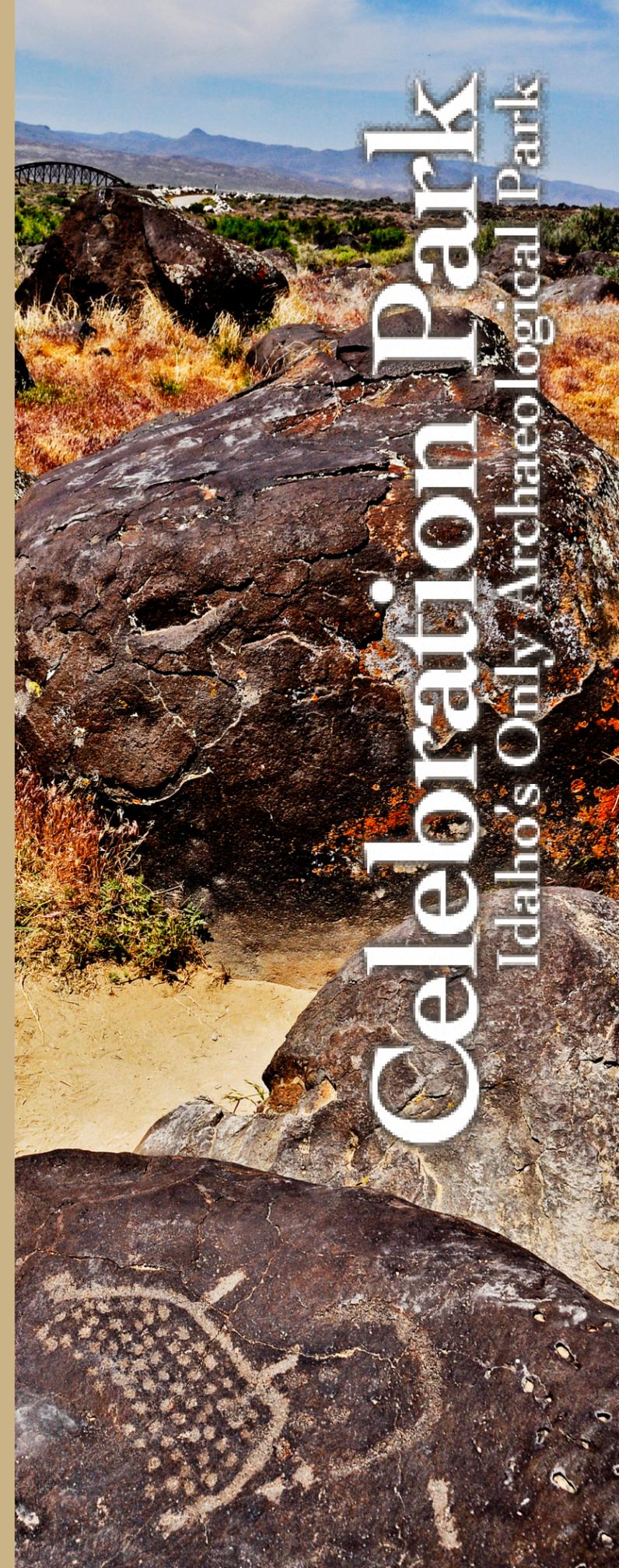
Fishing and Wildlife

Boating access here at the park offers great opportunity to enjoy some of Idaho's great fishing. Also with the parks location there are plenty of birds and animals to be seen.



Celebration Park

Idaho's Only Archaeological Park



Park Information

Information: Situated along the Snake River, Celebration Park was established as Idaho's only archaeological park in 1989. A walk through the huge basalt melon gravels deposited by the Bonneville flood reveals petroglyphs 100 to 10,000 years old. Visitors learn about the Paleolithic and Archaic ways of life and enjoy throwing a dart with an atlatl. Experience a walking tour of the historic Guffey Railroad Bridge and be captivated by southwest Idaho's early mining and railroad history.

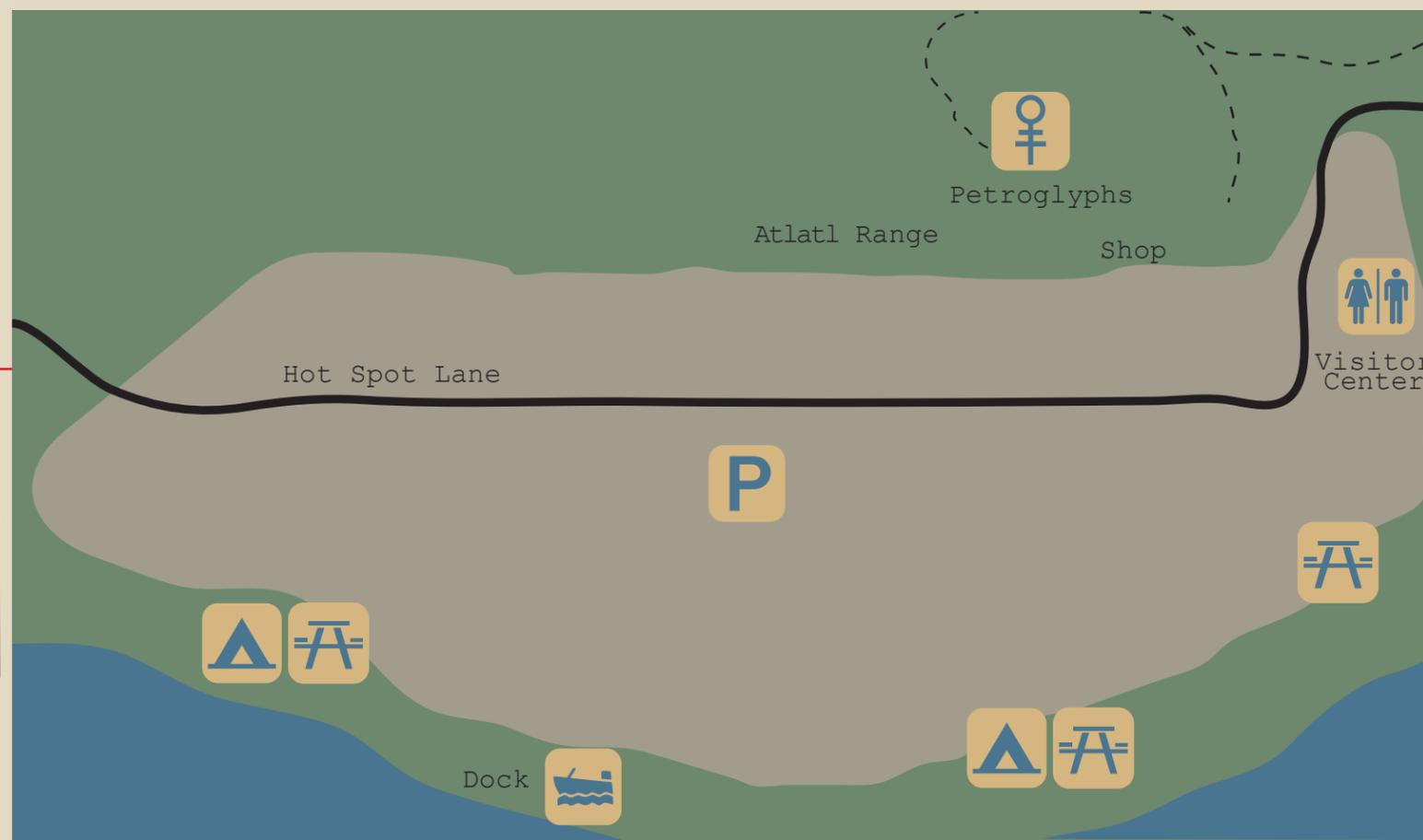
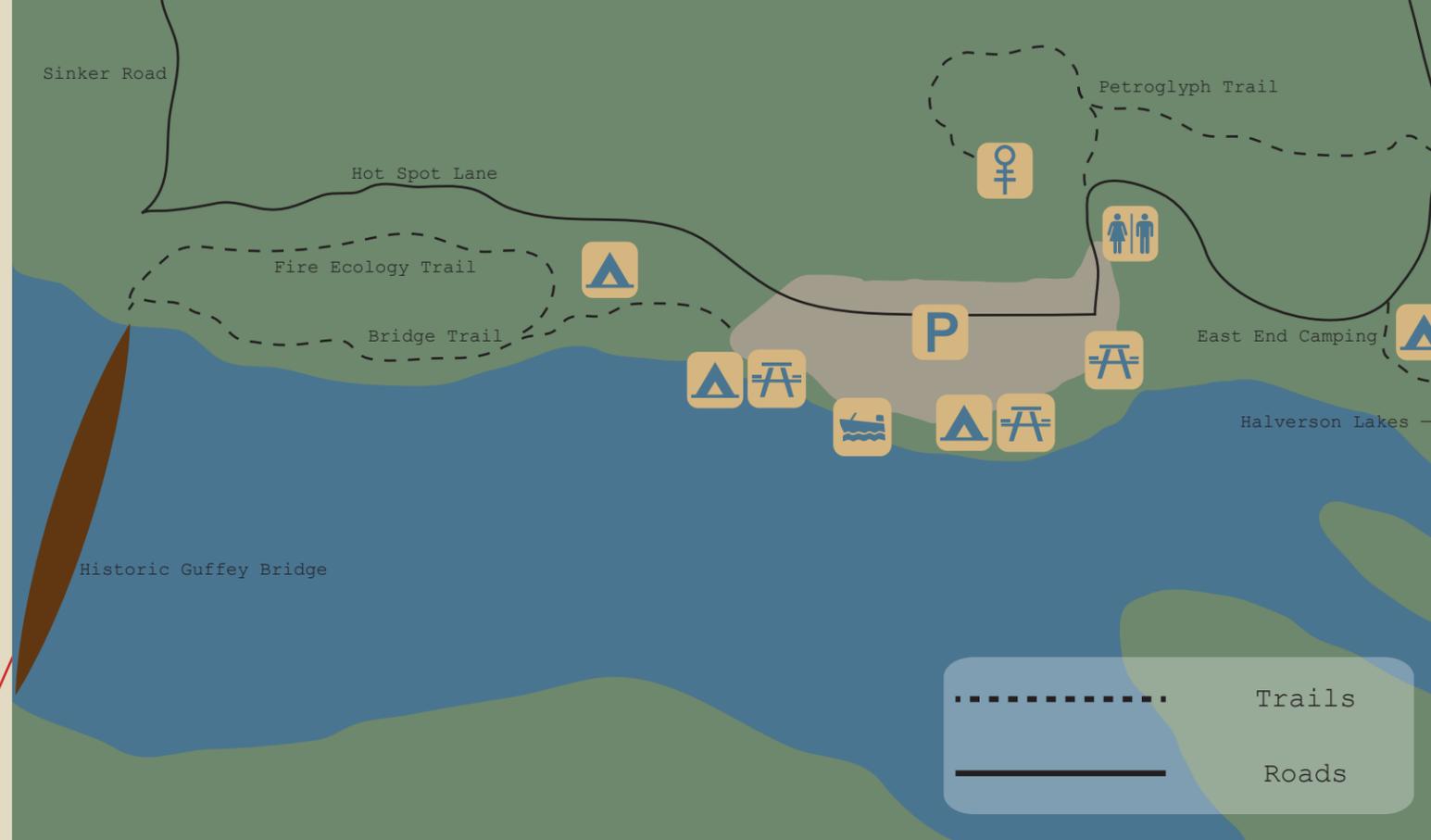
Season: All year.

Hours: The park is always open; Visitor Center, tours and atlatl range available April 1 thru October 31, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. every day.

Fees: Day use: \$2 per vehicle
Camping: \$5 per night (3 day limit)
Season Pass: \$15, Seniors: \$5

Facilities: Boating Facilities, Campsites, Gift Shop, Parking, Restrooms, Visitor Center

Address: 6530 Hot Spot Lane
Melba, Idaho 83641



How It All Began

Roughly 15,000 years ago, most of the Pacific Northwest was covered with large lakes that were created by the slow melting of the Wisconsin Glaciation. Among these lakes was **Lake Bonneville**, which was one of the largest.

At its largest; Lake Bonneville was about the size of what we know Lake Michigan to be now. Lava flows in eastern Idaho diverted water from the Bear River into the lake raising the water level until it reached its height at **Red Rock Pass**, what is now near Preston, ID. Red Rock Pass consisted of soft, and mostly sedimentary rock. When the lake began to flow the pass quickly gave way allowing the lake to flow out to the **Snake River**. Once the lake broke through the pass it only took six weeks to empty.

During the six weeks of the flood, 380 cubic miles of water rushed down the Snake River. The water ran over two hundred feet above the canyon walls here at Celebration Park. Though it did not cut the canyon into the shape it is today, it did change the character and configuration of the canyon.

The most noticeable change that can be seen here at Celebration Park is the boulder field. As the flood traveled from the original location of Lake Bonneville to the current location of Celebration Park water tore large chunks of Basalt rock from the canyon walls and tumbled them along to the location of where you are standing. The erosion of the rocks occurred because of a tumbling action, this action gave the rocks their melon-like shape and the boulders here at Celebration Park are called the **Bonneville Flood Melon Gravel**.

Here at Celebration Park you can see where the Bonneville Flood lost its energy and momentum. At the Far East end of the park is **Graveyard Rapids**. Upstream from these rapids the canyon is narrow and deep while downstream from these rapids the canyon opens up into a wide V-shape. As water came through the canyon and passed over the rapids it help a lot of energy and power, but as it reached the **Venturi Flume** (wide V-shape area downriver) it lost energy and began to spread out. As the water slowed down rocks and gravel that it was carrying began to drop, you can see this at the park as the larger boulders are at the east end of the park and they become smaller as you move towards the west end of the park. As gravel was sorted across the canyon floor, and this is known a **Gravel Bar**. The Gravel Bar here at Celebration Park is several miles long.

