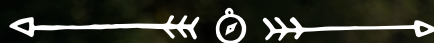


# LAKE LIFE



Payette Lake is a scenic showstopper and the centerpiece of activity in McCall. Spend the day at a lakefront beach or explore the clear, cool water by boat. Whether you are swimming, sailing, waterskiing, jet skiing, or boating, the lake offers endless activities to keep the family entertained.



## PRO TIP:

LOOKING TO RENT A BOAT, KAYAK OR PADDLE BOARD? VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO GET CONNECTED WITH OUR FRIENDLY LOCAL RENTAL BUSINESSES!

EXPLORE LAKE LIFE



[VISITMCCALL.ORG](https://www.visitmccall.org)





There is nothing like a day at the beach. Sunshine, sand and clear mountain water add up to one spectacular way to make lasting memories with the family.

You can rent a boat, jetski, lake kayak or SUP to explore Payette Lake or take in this special place at one of several public beaches.



## PAYETTE LAKE PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS

### ART ROBERT'S PARK

Best known as the home of the "Bearing Wall," a popular photo op, this park also features a municipal dock, grassy slope, beach on Payette Lake and a paver patio for small concerts, picnics and gatherings.

### BROWN PARK

Built where the former McCall Mill was located, Brown Park features a shoreline path, picnic tables, benches and playground equipment.

### DAVIS BEACH

This quiet beach area is a favorite with families and a perfect place to dip your toes in Payette Lake. Park in the lot near the entrance of Ponderosa Park for access.

### LEGACY PARK

The centerpiece of downtown McCall! Legacy Park includes a volleyball court, picnic tables, beach, enclosed swimming area, amphitheater, pathways for walking and biking, splash fountain, and public boat ramp.

### ROTARY PARK

Rotary Park is great for families—the beach and playground facilities provide excellent recreational opportunities. There is a grassy patch, public restrooms, picnic tables and a swimming beach...not to mention an excellent view of Payette lake!

### PONDEROSA STATE PARK

At Ponderosa State Park families can camp, picnic, hike, cycle, mountain bike, play volleyball and horseshoes, swim, fish, and watch for wildlife. The easiest access to Payette Lake is near the Visitor's Center.

### NORTH BEACH

The North Beach Unit is actually a part of the Ponderosa State Park system. North Beach is by far the largest public beach on Payette Lake and a perfect place to spend a sunny afternoon.

## THE LEGEND OF SHARLIE

Everyone loves a good legend and we have a great one right here in McCall, Idaho with "Sharlie," our resident Lake Monster...

*Big Payette Lake is named after Francois Payette, a French Canadian fur trapper who roamed the central Idaho mountains during the early years of the 19th century (1800's).*

*The natural lake is over 5,000 glacier-carved acres of clean, still water. At its deepest and darkest point, near the Northwest shore, the lake is 392 ft deep.*

*The Native Americans who once spent summers in Long Valley were said to fear the calm seemingly bottomless waters of the lake, telling stories of an evil spirit that lurked in its hidden depths.*

*The first documented sighting of something out of the ordinary was by a railroad logging crew. In 1920, while cutting railroad ties near the upper end of the lake, workers thought they saw a huge log floating in the frigid water. The log began to move forward. Then the log began to undulate. Then the 'log' created its own wake as it rapidly left the area.*

*In 1944, a group of people near the Narrows saw a creature, describing it as, "At least 35 feet long, with a dinosaur-type head, pronounced jaw, humps like a camel, and shell-like skin." This dramatic account propelled the story into the national headlines, and serpent hunters began to frequent the tranquil area to snap a photo of the creature or even capture it outright. An article published in the nationally distributed Times Magazine in August of 1944, reported that 30 people had seen the periscope-shaped head of the creature they called "Slimy Slim" since July 2 of that year.*

*In 1946, twenty people in a group reported seeing the creature. Dr. G.A. Taylor, of Nampa, stated that it appeared to be 40 feet long and seemed to keep diving down into the watery depths. He also said that it left a wake like a small motor boat.*

*By 1954, many people had reported sightings of Slimy Slim, and residents decided their local monster needed a better name. A. Boone McCallum, editor of the Star News, held a national contest, and the winning entry was submitted by Lelsle Hennefer Tury, of Springfield Virginia. In her letter to the Star, she wrote, "Why don't you call him Sharlie?—you know, like 'Vas you der, Sharlie?'" This was a reference to a one-liner used by Jack Pearl in a popular radio show.*

*Regular sightings of Sharlie have been reported over the years, but no official evidence of Sharlie's existence has been offered up. Regardless, the residents of McCall need no proof to know she (yes, Sharlie is a she) is real. Her legend continues to grow, adding imagination and mystery to the area folklore, as an unofficial symbol of McCall.*

Have you been lucky enough to see Sharlie?

Story of Sharlie courtesy Barbara Nokes Kwader with the Nelle Tobias Research Center in Roseberry.

