



Markers & Monuments

In addition to spectacular views of the river, information on native wildlife and historical facts of local importance have been posted along the Northern loop of the Greenbelt.

The War Memorial at "A" Street honors veterans of all wars.

Directly across the river, where the Red Lion Hotel now stands, is the site of one of two barracks built to house WWII prisoners. In 1945 an estimated 15,000 Italian and German prisoners worked for eighty cents a day in surrounding potato and sugar beet fields. In 1946 the prisoners were returned to their homelands, but may returned to this area to live and raise families.

A plaque on the east bank near Riverside Drive denotes the 1909 camping spot of a Lemhi branch of Shoshone Indians who were on their way to relocation at the Fort Hall Reservation near Pocatello.



Welcome to the Idaho Falls Greenbelt...a spectacular way to see and explore the things that makes Idaho Falls unique.

Covering 5 miles on both sides of the Snake River it is a joint project of the City and its residents spearheaded by the Idaho Falls Rotary Club whose annual Great Snake River Duck Race provides additional funds for expansion and improvement of the project. We hope you enjoy your visit to the Greenbelt and will come back soon.

Mayor Jared Fuhrman



Southern Loop (2 + miles)

The west side 1/4-mile Memorial Trail provides access to Pederson's Sportsmen's Park via the Taylor Toll Bridge plus the Snake River Landing commercial area.

A 9/10 mile eastside nature trail from the Park accesses the Art Museum of Eastern Idaho and an adjoining children's playground. Further on camping and boating facilities are available at South Tourist Park and Gem Lake. An additional 1/2 mile trail from there ends at Ryder Park, a 1-acre fishing and wildlife area.

Taylor's Crossing: a replica of the first bridge across the Snake River in 1866, it was reconstructed in the 1990's by the East Idaho and Idaho Falls Rotary Clubs.

Today only a footbridge, it also provides access to the home of Idaho Falls' Sister City Program and features stone lanterns from Nakamura, Japan.

Pathways

Northern loop (2.3 miles)

The Temple Loop path is the most heavily used and extends to Highway 20. A summer floating walkway beneath Highway 20 connects to Freeman Park and an additional mile-long path that features a vintage car show and boat races, and the Roaring River Youth Jam draws young musicians and artists.

Division Dam: The 1982 dam at Broadway splits the river. The east side flow is diverted to a city-owned power plant while the west side remains relatively unimpeded.

Keefers Island: Located in the center of the river, this was a gold mining claim filed by Fred W. Keefe in 1939. Deeding it to the city in 1962, the island and its 14x22 foot cabin is now restricted to waterfowl and wildlife.

The Falls of Idaho Falls

The Snake River in 1883 was a fearsome sight for early residents. Baptist Missionary Rebecca Mitchell described the river flowing through a "crack in the earth between solid walls of lava rock. It dashed upon the rocks, foamed and roared."

But, by the mid-Twentieth Century, the river had been put to work. Dammed and diverted, it watered land that made Idaho Falls the hub of an irrigated agricultural empire.

Power generated by four city-owned plants is sold to Bonneville Power Administration and electricity is returned to the city at reduced rates.

The wild Snake River—epicenter of the region's economy and Idaho Falls' culture—is still spectacularly evident during high water like spring runoffs.

Greenbelt Activities

Special events draw thousands of visitors to the Greenbelt each year. The Saturday morning Farmers Market showcases local produce and products; mid-summer festivals display regional art and artistry; the annual Great Snake River Duck Race features a vintage car show and boat races; and the Roaring River Youth Jam draws young musicians and artists.

Not to be missed is the spectacular Metaleuca Freedom Festival each July 4. The largest fireworks event west of the Mississippi, it draws over 100,000 people from throughout Idaho and surrounding states.

At the "A" street kiosk, current information on who is doing what, when, and where is readily available.

Walking the Greenbelt

If Hilda McClure, whose estate created the flower gardens near the current Red Lion Hotel, is considered the mother of the Greenbelt, then former Mayor Tom Campbell, who began the expansion of the greenbelt as part of a Centennial project in 1976, can be called its father.

On almost any given day rain, snow, or shine, visitors and residents take advantage of the trails. Easy access from adjacent roads and streets, park benches, picnic tables, restrooms and drinking fountains make it a favorite place to go--be it for an hour or all day.

The paved paths on both sides of the river give visitors access to the crown jewel in the city's park system.

Idaho Falls Greenbelt Guide

Maria Rizzi-Grandi Photo

