

Boise River Greenbelt

Bicycle Scavenger Hunt



Welcome to the Boise River Greenbelt! Our scavenger hunt begins on the very first parcel of land acquired by the City of Boise for the purpose of creating a “green way” for the public to enjoy. The Boise River Greenbelt is the product of a 1960s grassroots effort spearheaded by Boise Councilman Bill Onweiler, who worked tirelessly to see it to fruition. What began as a patchwork of purchased and donated property now encompasses roughly 25 miles of public land and offers unlimited access to the Boise River – the lifeblood of the valley and a major asset that helps make the City of Boise “the most livable city in the country.” This 10-mile tour spotlights the history of the Boise River Greenbelt, its natural scenic beauty, and special points of interest along the way.

- **CALLOUT - DOTS:** In 2001, the City of Boise implemented a site location system along the Greenbelt to assist users with identifying where they are on the pathway. The Distance and Orientation Trail System (DOTS) is a series of 20-inch white spots painted on the Greenbelt’s surface every tenth of a mile. Inside the white spots are black numbers that correspond with how far the spot is from zero – the 8th Street pedestrian bridge in Downtown Boise – and letters that indicate the sector of the Greenbelt the spot is located in, such as the northwest (NW) or southeast (SE) quadrant.

Begin at the Old Timers’ Shelter in the northeast corner of Ann Morrison Park and travel east along the Greenbelt to DOTS S 0.0.

Clue 1: McClellan’s Ferry - S 0.0: Ferries were commonplace in Idaho during the late 1800s, allowing access from one side of a waterway to the other using currents and guide cables that were anchored to both banks. McClellan’s Ferry, established in 1863, is thought to be the first ferry chartered in Idaho Territory. At that time, the Boise River was 600 feet wide at this location, more than twice its current width. For one dollar, a man and his horse could safely cross the river using McClellan’s Ferry. In Box 5, write the second letter of McClellan’s first name.

- **DON’T MISS: Lasting Legacy - S 0.0:** Much of the information presented on this tour is displayed on the historical signs along the Greenbelt that were made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Ada County Centennial Commission and the City of Boise.

(Continue east)

Clue 2: U.S. Airmail - SE 0.9: Boise’s first commercial airport was located here, on the east end of what is now the Boise State University campus. The airport was constructed in 1926 to serve as a stop along the airmail route that went from Elko, Nevada to Pasco, Washington. In 1927, aviator Charles Lindbergh landed here as part of his nationwide tour of state capitols and was greeted by 40,000 Idahoans who came out to celebrate the occasion. In Box 3, write the first letter of the name of the airport.

(Continue east and cross the wooden bridge)

Clue 3: Logger Creek - just west of SE 1.2: Logger Creek was not really a creek but a ditch whose waters were first used to power a waterwheel at William Morris’ mill in 1865. Later, the site housed a sawmill that used the ditch to carry logs to the Boise River. In Box 8, write the first letter of the common pantry item that was produced at Morris’ mill.

- **DON’T MISS: Baybrook Court Bridge - SE 2.1:** This pedestrian bridge is a popular summer destination for bridge jumpers looking to take the plunge into the river below. Just east of the bridge, along the north bank, is a sandy beach that lends itself to rafters looking to take a break from their float.

(Continue east)

Clue 4: Bethine Church River Trail - east of SE 2.5: This 1.6-mile pathway remains unpaved to create a tranquil, natural area for walking and running (bicycles are not allowed beyond this point). It is a fitting tribute to Bethine Church, whose contributions to wildlife and conservation have been recognized throughout the state. Bethine was married to U.S. Sen. Frank Church and was often called Idaho’s “third senator” because of her active partnership in the Senate. Together, the couple worked to conserve public lands. In Box 14, write the first letter of the month in which the trail was dedicated.

(Backtrack to Baybrook Court Bridge and cross to the north side of the river, then follow the path)

- **DON’T MISS:** On your right is the Warm Springs Park restroom, featuring “Gone Native,” a wildflower mosaic created by Reham Aarti-Jacobson as part of a public art program administered by the Boise City Arts & History Department. The wildflowers are made of glass, ceramic and porcelain tiles.

Clue 5: Warm Springs Park - just east of NE 2.1: This undeveloped 20-acre community park provides valuable wildlife habitat and vegetation in a wetlands demonstration area that serves both public education and conservation purposes. This location was once the site of an indoor swimming pool that was a popular destination among Boiseans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In Box 6, write the first letter of the name of “Boise’s first health club.”

(Go west. After NE 1.8, go left at the T in the path)

- **DON’T MISS: Boise Tourist Park - NE 1.6:** After World War I, an estimated 20,000 cars per year pulled into the Boise Tourist Park campground and stayed an average of seven days. The grounds offered tent sites, a kitchen, laundry facility, playground and even a car wash area.

Clue 6: Airway Park – just west of NE 1.5: Municipal Park was once the site of Airway Park, a Pioneer League baseball stadium where the Boise Pilots took to the field from 1939 to 1951. From 1952 to '53, the Boise Yankees drew the crowds, and in 1954, the Boise Braves. Known then as Braves Field, the park was home to future Major Leaguers Bob Uecker and Sandy Alomar. Prior to its sale to the Milwaukee Braves, the park was named after a talented New York Yankees scout named Devine. In Box 9, write the first letter of Devine's first name.

(Continue west)

- **DON'T MISS:** On your right is a path to the MK Nature Center, a 4.6-acre educational facility operated by Idaho Fish & Game that offers a unique wildlife experience, including underwater viewing windows, guided nature tours, a visitor center with hands-on activities and a gift shop.
- **DON'T MISS: Saturn - west of NE 0.1:** The bollard on the left side of the path is one of several included in the "Ride to Pluto" planet tour available through the Discovery Center of Idaho. The planet tour begins with a model of the sun, located just inside the Discovery Center's entrance, and continues along the Greenbelt with scale models of each planet. The distance between each point is also accurate to scale, with Pluto (reclassified in 2006 as a dwarf planet) a mile and a half away. On this same scale, the nearest star would be represented near the South Pole.

(The next clue requires that you cross the road and venture briefly into Julia Davis Park. It is directly north of the Saturn display)

Clue 7: Julia Davis Statue - west of NE 0.1, then north into the park: Julia McCrumb arrived from Ontario, Canada, in the summer of 1869 and married Tom Davis, one of Boise's first entrepreneurs, in 1871. In the years that followed, Julia welcomed and assisted emigrants traveling on the Oregon Trail as they stopped their wagons along the river to rest from their journey across the high desert. This statue of Julia is a tribute to the woman known best for her kindness and gracious hospitality. She died in the fall of 1907 at the age of 60 after assisting a traveler who may have had typhoid fever. Tom deeded this land to the city in his wife's memory, to "always and forever be known as the Julia Davis Park." Less than a year later, Tom passed away. In Box 12, write the last letter of the name of the item Julia is holding in her right hand.

(Continue west)

- **DON'T MISS:** On your right is the Gene Harris Bandshell, named after the famous Boise jazz musician. The structure was built in 1928 and was originally called the Julia Davis Bandshell. Boise Music Week, which began in 1919 as a free annual event that provided a venue for local performers to share their talents, moved to the bandshell in the mid-1970s, where it continues today. The bandshell hosts numerous music events throughout the year and is a staging area for fun runs, marches, family movie nights in the summer and more.

(Continue west and cross under Capitol Bridge, then make your first right)

Clue 8: Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial – West of NE 0.1: The memorial is an educational park inspired by Anne Frank's unwavering spirit and faith in humanity. Anne, along with her family and four other Jews, hid for more than two years in an attic during the Holocaust. They were eventually betrayed, arrested and taken to concentration camps, where Anne perished in 1945. In 1948, the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms of all people. This memorial is one of the only places in the world where the full Universal Declaration of Human Rights is on public display. In Box 11, write the first letter of the first word of the declaration (the declaration tablets are arranged to be read from right to left).

- **DON'T MISS:** The Boise Public Library! is located across the parking lot from the Anne Frank Memorial. The Library! is home to a collection of more than 300,000 items for public use, including an expansive collection on local history. The library also offers 42 computers with Internet access, WiFi, meeting rooms, research assistance, children's activities, special events and more.
- **DON'T MISS:** The Cabin is directly east of the Anne Frank Memorial. It is a literary center whose mission is to inspire a love of reading, writing and discourse. The Cabin offers writing camps, hosts visiting authors and provides publication opportunities for all ages.

(Return to the Greenbelt path and continue west)

Clue 9: Boise Time Capsule – just east of NW 0.6 (at the western edge of the grassy triangle): In celebrating the 30-year anniversary of the Boise River Greenbelt, on Sept. 30, 1999, the City of Boise buried a time capsule at this location. The time capsule will be reopened Sept. 30, 2019, as part of the city's 50-year celebration. We hope you will join us for the occasion! While you're here, you can read about the history of the Greenbelt and the people who made it possible. The names of the Boise River Greenbelt and Pathways Committee members are listed at the end of this historical sign. In Box 10, write the first letter of the first name of the first committee member listed.

(Continue west)

Clue 10: Fire Fighter's Respite - NW 1.0: – Riverside Park features a memorial plaza to honor Idaho's fallen firefighters, as well as a 10-foot beam from the World Trade Center to honor emergency responders who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001. On the right of the path is a sculpture of a fire hose, created by local artist Mark Baltes, from which the public can safely watch training exercises at the Fire Training Center beyond the chain-link fence. The nearby sign provides information about the history of firefighting in Boise. In Box 7, write the first letter of the last word of the Boise Fire Department's mission statement.

(Continue west, stay to the left and travel under the bridge)

- **DON'T MISS: Trestle Bridge:** Constructed in 1923, this pedestrian bridge was once a railroad bridge.
- **DON'T MISS: Quinn's Pond – NW 1.7:** The 22-acre Quinn's Pond on the right is part of Bernadine Quinn Riverside Park, an undeveloped property that, when complete, will include fishing docks, a small beach for canoe landings and a picnic area with a shelter. The park is named after Bernadine Quinn, a longtime member of the Catholic Women's League of Boise. The property was previously the site of a gravel operation for the Quinn-Robbins construction company, founded by Bernadine's husband, Maurice.

(Continue west past Boise River Park – we'll come back to it – and follow the path to the right, then make a left in front of the bridge.)

- **DON'T MISS:** On your right is the beginning of The Historic West End Trail. The signage here explains how to use the trail markers to navigate through this historic section of Boise's west end.

Clue 11: Idaho Soldier's Home - just east of NE 2.5: In 1895, the Idaho Soldier's Home was opened to house aging, poor and disabled veterans. The idea of such state-run facilities was first proposed by the Grand Army of the Republic, made up of men from state militias who fought in the Civil War. By World War I, the Idaho Solider's Home had 120 residents. In 1915, Ladies of the G.A.R. donated a statue of a U.S. president to the Soldier's Home. In Box 13, write the first letter of the last name of the president.

(Continue west. Just before NW 2.6, make a right and cross the wooden bridge to enter Veterans Memorial Park. Follow the path about one-third of a mile to the monuments in the northeast corner of the park.)

Clue 12: Veterans Memorial Park – Veterans Memorial Park features a brick-lined Patriots' Walk to honor Idaho veterans, as well as a Memorial Plaza that contains a number of different monuments and memorials. These include a Combat Wounded Veterans Memorial, Korean War Memorial, POW/MIA Memorial and more. The Memorial Plaza is offered as a place to reflect on the sacrifices so many have made for our freedom. There is a poem on the Combat Wounded Veterans monument. In Box 1, write the first letter of the color of stone described in the first line of the poem.

(Return to the Greenbelt path and reverse direction, heading east)

Clue 13: Boise River Park - east of NW 1.8: The observation deck at Boise River Park offers views of boaters and surfers riding the waves of this state-of-the-art project that opened on June 2012. Wave-shaper technology enhances the natural flows of the Boise River, creating a popular destination for wave enthusiasts and onlookers. A project sign, located on the observation deck, details the full scope of the two-phase project that will ultimately include the development of the 55-acre Esther Simplot Park, complete with ponds, a meandering stream, bridges and picnic areas. A \$1 million gift from J.R. & Esther Simplot in January 2003 allowed the City of Boise to complete the purchase of riverfront property. In Box 4, write the first letter of the Boise River Park feature listed as No. 50 on the sign.

(Continue east to Pioneer Bridge, just east of NW 0.5, and cross the bridge into Ann Morrison Park. At the end of the bridge, make a right and follow the path to the parking lot. From there, go southeast to the restroom building.)

Clue 14: Ann Morrison Park – restroom building near the playground: Signs on this building tell the story of Ann and Harry Morrison, from their whirlwind courtship that began in 1914 to Harry's dedication of this park as a memorial to his beloved wife after her death in 1957. The 153-acre park spans from Americana Boulevard to Capitol Boulevard and required 15,000 yards of topsoil to be trucked in from the desert. During construction, crews planted over 2,000 trees. In 1954, Harry Morrison was on the cover of a popular magazine, heralded as "the man who has done more than anyone else to change the face of the earth." In Box 2, write the second letter of the name of the magazine.

- **DON'T MISS: Bronze sculpture of Ann Morrison –** near the park fountain: This bronze sculpture is the second one created in memory of Ann Daly Morrison. Dissatisfied with the likeness of Ann in the original, Harry hired a famous New York sculptor to create a new portrait. The \$5,000 bronze was installed on Feb. 23, 1963 – Harry's 78th birthday.

Hint: The Boise River Greenbelt is often referred to as the _____ because it is the uniting stretch of land that links the precious deeded commodities given to the city to celebrate the names of Boise's finest patron ladies. They include Alta Harris Park, Ann Morrison Park, Bethine Church River Trail, Bernardine Quinn Riverside Park, Dona Larson Park, Esther Simplot Park, Julia Davis Park, Kathryn Albertson Park, and Marianne Williams Park.

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