Boise River Greenbelt

Greenbelt Map and Guide for Boise, Idaho

Safety Tips

The Greenbelt is a safe and popular place enjoyed by thousands of people annually. Users should follow these simple common-sense suggestions:

- Stay alert. Take off your head phones and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, leave the area.
- Travel in well-lit areas. Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots, isolated pathways or alleys.
- Carry a cellphone. Know your location in case you need to call 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- Report to the police unwanted contacts by strangers. Be able to describe the person accurately.
- Walk with a companion. You may feel safe with a dog but unless it is a trained attack dog it won't be much help if you are attacked.
- Be observant around buildings, bridges, trees and shrubbery–anywhere someone might hide.

In case of emergency, dial 911.

Parks & Recreation

Boise Parks & Recreation Admin Office
1104 Royal Blvd. | Boise ID 83706
parks.cityofboise.org | bpr@cityofboise.org
(208) 608-7600 | TTY:(800) 377-3529

Greenbelt e-News

Get updates on construction projects, maintenance and other Greenbelt information delivered to your email! Sign up for the Greenbelt e-news at parks.cityofboise.org/enews

REV 07/16

Points of Interest–Boise Parks & Recreation

1. Willow Lane Athletic Complex

Six sports fields host adult softball leagues and tournaments. Amenities also include a tournament soccer field, seasonal concessions, playground, wetlands and restrooms.

2. Veterans Memorial State Park

The brick Patriots' Walk leads to memorials and flags honoring veterans of all wars and the Battle of Wake Island. Amenities include walking paths, a restroom, reservable picnic site and shelter, large playground, open play areas, and a lake with docks for fishing.

3. Esther Simplot Park *(undeveloped)*

Upon completion, water features wll be the focus of this 55-acre park. Paved and gravel pathways will weave through grassy areas, picnic shelters, along a meandering stream, across bridges and around islands. Ponds will offer swimming and fishing access.

4. Bernardine Quinn Riverside Park

A popular destination for boaters, swimmers and standup paddleboard enthusiasts on hot summer days, the park features a 22-acre pond. Fishing is permitted. Accessible docks can be reached from Whitewater Park Boulevard and the Greenbelt.

5. Boise River Park

Adjustable wave features entertain boaters and spectators at this river recreation park, which opened in 2012. The riverbank is popular with anglers and wildlife watchers. Greenbelt users are welcome to stop by and watch the boaters, surfers and stand up paddle boarders challenge the waves!

6. Riverside Park

A plaza with statues, flags, stone benches and plantings honors Idaho's Fallen Firefighters. A new memorial opened in 2013 celebrates the first responders at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

7. Kathryn Albertson Park

An urban wildlife habitat area with ¾ mile walking loops, the park features two reservable gazebos suitable for formal ceremonies. Interpretive signs educate visitors about the wildlife habitat, history and landscaping. Dogs are prohibited March 1–June 30 during waterfowl nesting season.

8. Shoreline Park

This shady park features a scenic overlook of the river and houses the Boise Police Department volunteer ranger program. Amenities include picnic tables and accessible parking with wheelchair access.

9. Ann Morrison Memorial Park

Donated by Harry W. Morrison in honor of his late wife, this large park opened in 1959. A picturesque fountain cascades into an elevated pool. Amenities include a large playground, restrooms, reservable shelter, lighted ballfields, open play areas, tennis courts, an 18-hole disc golf course, bocce courts and horseshoe pits. Smoking is only allowed in designated areas.

An illustrated brochure about trees in the park is available at parks.cityofboise.org.

10. Pioneer Walk

A landscaped pedestrian pathway with benches and lighting, the walkway links downtown with the Greenbelt through the River Street neighborhood.

11. Julia Davis Park

The city's oldest park Julia Davis, opened in 1897, and is home to Zoo Boise, the Idaho State Historical Museum, Boise Art Museum, Idaho Black History Museum, Discovery Center of Idaho and an expansive Rose Garden. Amenities include four tennis courts, horseshoe pits, two reservable pavilions, a playground, bocce courts and restrooms. A seasonal boathouse rents paddle boats for use on the pond. Smoking is only allowed in designated areas.

An illustrated brochure about trees in the park is available at parks.cityofboise.org.

12. Municipal Park

Large mature trees provide shade for a reservable shelter and picnic sites. Other features include a large playground, bocce courts and restrooms.

13. Natatorium Pool

One of the city's most popular municipal pools, the Natatorium features a large outdoor pool with diving boards, a hydrotube, tot wading pool, concession stand, sundecks and grassy areas.

14. Warm Springs Park *(undeveloped)*

The undeveloped park features a 2-acre wetland designed to improve water quality by filtering it through a pond, marshes and aquatic vegetation.

15. Warm Springs Golf Course

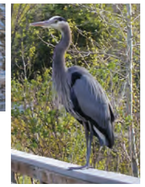
Shaded by mature trees, the 18-hole golf course offers scenic vistas of the Foothills and the Boise River. Lessons are available for all ages and abilities. A pro shop sells equipment and apparel. Meals, snacks, and hot and cold beverages are served in the clubhouse restaurant. Open from sunrise to sunset year round. www.warmspringsgolfcourse.com

16. Baggley Park

This 7-acre neighborhood park in Southeast Boise features a perimeter pathway, restroom, picnic shelter, basketball court, volleyball court, tennis courts and open play areas.

17. Bethine Church River Trail

Lada Stransky photo



Idaho Department of Fish and Game photo

A tranquil walking-only gravel path, the 1.8-mile river trail features wooden bridges, Boise River overlooks and prime wildlife habitat. The Bethine Church River Trail is part of the statewide Idaho Birding Trail, which incorporates some of the state's best bird-watching hotspots, diverse habitats, and a glimpse of Idaho's rich natural heritage. Bicycles are prohibited. http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/ibt

18. Marianne Williams Park

One of Boise's largest parks, Marianne Williams Park offers scenic views of the East Foothills and nearly 2 miles of Greenbelt pathways. Amenities include open space, two ponds, natural areas, paved pathways, a restroom, shelter, gazebo, and grassy play areas. Dogs and bikes are prohibited on sidewalks in the interior of the park.

19. Quail Hollow Golf Course

In 2013, the 140-acre Quail Hollow Golf Course was donated to the City of Boise. The 18-hole championship course is managed by Boise Parks & Recreation. www.quailhollowboise.com

20. Alta Harris Park *(undeveloped)*

This 20-acre site was donated by the Harris family in honor of the late Alta Harris. When funding becomes available, the park will be developed to include new sports fields, volleyball courts, picnic shelters and restrooms.

Other Points Of Interest

21. Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial

An inspirational tribute to the memory of Anne Frank, the 1.6-acre memorial is located next to the Boise Public Library and The Cabin. The site features a 180-foot sandstone wall with quotes from philosophers, poets and presidents encircling pathways, ponds and reflective water falls. A bronze statue of Anne Frank overlooks a 90-foot reading circle. Staff and volunteers offer interpretive walks for school groups and visitors. idaho-humanrights.org

22. MK Nature Center

Operated by the Idaho Fish & Game Department, the 4.6-acre site features underwater viewing stations and educational signs. Open from sunrise to sunset, the center is home to a living exhibit of fish, aquatic life forms, riparian ecology and stream hydraulics. A visitor's center offers educational programs. fishandgame.idaho.gov/CMS/education/mknc

23. Bown Crossing

Bown Crossing is a hub of restaurants and retail businesses in a 35-acre residential neighborhood in Southeast Boise. A parking lot located west of Bown Way between the business district and Riverside Elementary School provides access to the Greenbelt.

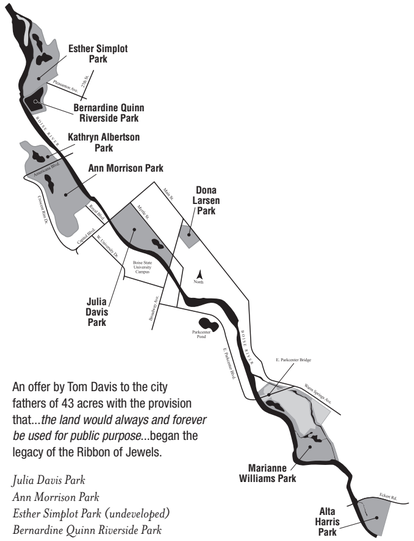
24. Barber Park

Operated by Ada County, Barber Park is the starting point for the approximately 10,000 summer river tubers. Boats are available for rent seasonally. Amenities include pathways, open areas and an events center. adacounty.id.gov/Parks-Waterways/Barber-Park

Parking Available | Restrooms | Ribbon of Jewels | No Smoking

Ribbon of Jewels

The Boise River Greenbelt serves as the uniting ribbon that links these precious jewels–the properties given to the city in honor of some of Boise's finest civic leaders. The parks are legacies of these remarkable women and their commitment to their community.



An offer by Tom Davis to the city fathers of 43 acres with the provision that...*the land would always and forever be used for public purpose*...began the legacy of the Ribbon of Jewels.

Julia Davis Park
Ann Morrison Park
Esther Simplot Park (undeveloped)
Bernardine Quinn Riverside Park
Kathryn Albertson Park
Dona Larsen Park (owned & managed by Boise State University)
Marianne Williams Park
Alta Harris Park (undeveloped)

Boise River Greenbelt

One of Boise's most popular parks, the Greenbelt meanders along the Boise River for nearly 25 miles. The pathway stretches west past the Willow Lane Athletic Complex, and east to the Barber Valley. It links Warm Springs Golf Course with more than a dozen major parks providing open space and wildlife habitat in the heart of the city. While it is difficult to determine exactly how many people use the Greenbelt, there is no doubt that it is one of the most widely used amenities in the Treasure Valley. A favorite of bikers, skaters, walkers and runners, it also accommodates commuters who welcome an alternative transportation route. The Boise Parks & Recreation Department has added features to improve the accessibility to the pathway.

Greenbelt Etiquette

Please observe the following courtesies and safety guidelines.

- Stay only on designated trails.
- Pedestrians have the right of way at all times. Cyclists and in-line skaters must be aware of pedestrians.
- All Greenbelt users should stay to the right and use caution under bridges and at blind corners where vision could be impaired
- Pedestrians should not walk more than two abreast.
- Motorized vehicles and hoofed animals are prohibited. (Except for maintenance, patrol and vehicles for disabled visits.)
- Non-paved sections are restricted to foot traffic only.
- Dogs are allowed only on a leash of 8 feet or less. Dog owners are responsible for picking up after their pets.
- Cyclists and in-line skaters should maintain speeds safe for conditions.
- A person passing other users must notify the users that they are passing—example: "Passing on your left." The person has the responsibility to pass freely and clearly. It is also the responsibility of the passer not to hinder the approaching user.
- **Don't harass or encroach on wildlife.** Disturbing or collecting any vegetation or natural habitat along the Greenbelt is prohibited.

History of the Greenbelt

Strolling along the pathways that parallel the river, you may get a sense that this beautiful setting has always been here for us to enjoy. However, until the 1960s the river was a dumping ground for industrial waste and raw sewage. The riverbank was choked with trash and weeds.

In 1964, the city completed a comprehensive plan and updated the zoning ordinance. During the process, it was recommended that the city acquire land along the Boise River to create a continuous "green belt" of public lands stretching the entire length of the community.

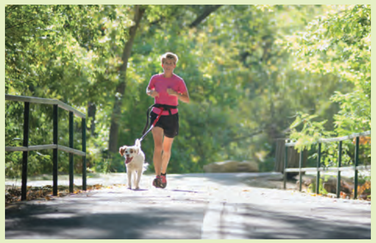
Soon, a grass-roots effort was launched to clean up the waterway and create public access to the river corridor. In 1966 and 1967, three small parcels of land were donated to the city to launch the"green belt."

In 1968, the first Greenbelt Plan and Guidelines were adopted by the Board of Parks Commissioners.

A Greenbelt and Pathways Committee was appointed to guide the City of Boise in the development of the Greenbelt.

The first Greenbelt Ordinance was adopted in 1971, which required a minimum setback of 70 feet for all structures and parking areas.

Since then, the City of Boise has pieced together numerous parcels to expand the pathway. Now, thousands of people enjoy walking and bicycling year-round along the 25 miles of pathway maintained by the Boise Parks & Recreation Department.



Other Resources

Ridge to Rivers

The Boise Foothills rise above Idaho's Capitol and largest city, providing a postcard backdrop that inspires and soothes the soul. An interconnected network of roads and trails courses through these hills, linking not only neighborhoods with public lands but also connecting people with the natural environment. With over 190 miles of trail, there is something for everyone. For more information on trails, current trail conditions and etiquette, visit www.ridgetorivers.org or on Facebook. Trail maps for the lower Foothills and Shafer Butte near Bogus Basin are available at local bike and outdoor stores and the Boise Parks & Recreation Administration Office, 1104 Royal Blvd.

ACHD Roadways to Bikeways Plan

The Roadways to Bikeways Plan provides a broad vision, policy, goals and objectives for how the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) can facilitate and improve conditions for bicycling in Ada County over the next 50 years. The Plan envisions a bicycle network that connects local neighborhoods, schools, public facilities, business districts and environmental features. Once achieved, this Plan will improve Ada County residents' health, enhance their quality of life, help improve and protect the County's vital natural resources, and be a source of pride to the community. Visit the ACHD bicycle page for more information and the current Ada County Bikeways Map: www.achdidaho.org/Community/BikeResources.aspx

Distance & Orientation Trail System

The Distance & Orientation Trail System (DOTS) was created to help Greenbelt users identify their location in emergencies and to find local points of interest. The Capitol Bridge is the starting point for the DOTS system, which runs east and west on both sides of the river.

NW 0.5 | SW 0.3

Smoke Free Zone

Smoking is prohibited on the Greenbelt and all other city parks (except for designated areas in Julia Davis and Ann Morrison parks).

Wildlife on the Greenbelt

Idaho Department of Fish and Game photo

The Boise Greenbelt is an urban wildlife watcher's dream. Over 150 different kinds of birds and numerous mammal, reptile and amphibian species live in the riparian habitat corridor along the Boise River. Greenbelt visitors can see and hear a surprising variety of wildlife. Tall cottonwood trees provide perches for large birds such as great blue heron, osprey, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk and bald eagle. Numerous smaller birds can be seen in the trees and shrubs. Common species to watch for include black-capped chickadee, northern flicker, California quail, yellow warbler, song sparrow, American kestrel, black-billed magpie, belted kingfisher and Bullock's oriole. The river itself attracts waterfowl such as Canada geese, wood duck, common merganser and mallard. Muskrat, mink and even beaver can be seen swimming in the Boise River. Mule deer, red fox, coyote and raccoon may be seen slipping through the vegetation along the riverbanks. Early morning and evening are the best times to see the "wild" side of Boise's Greenbelt.

Key

- Paved path maintained by Boise Parks & Recreation (BPR)
- Paved path maintained by Garden City
- Paved path maintained by Ada County
- Paved path, no bicycles, maintained by BPR
- Dirt path
- Walking dirt path, no bicycles
- Street
- Connecting Bike Route
- Bike Repair Station
- Outdoor Fitness Gym
- Parking
- Bridge
- Restrooms
- Ribbon of Jewels

Points of Interest–Boise Parks & Recreation

1. Willow Lane Athletic Complex
2. Veterans Memorial State Park
3. Esther Simplot Park *(undeveloped)*
4. Bernardine Quinn Riverside Park
5. Boise River Park
6. Riverside Park
7. Kathryn Albertson Park
8. Shoreline Park
9. Ann Morrison Memorial Park
10. Pioneer Walk
11. Julia Davis Park
12. Municipal Park
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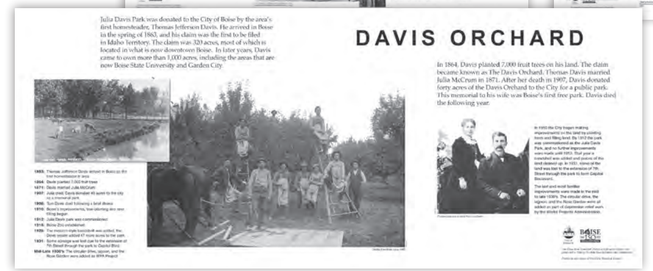
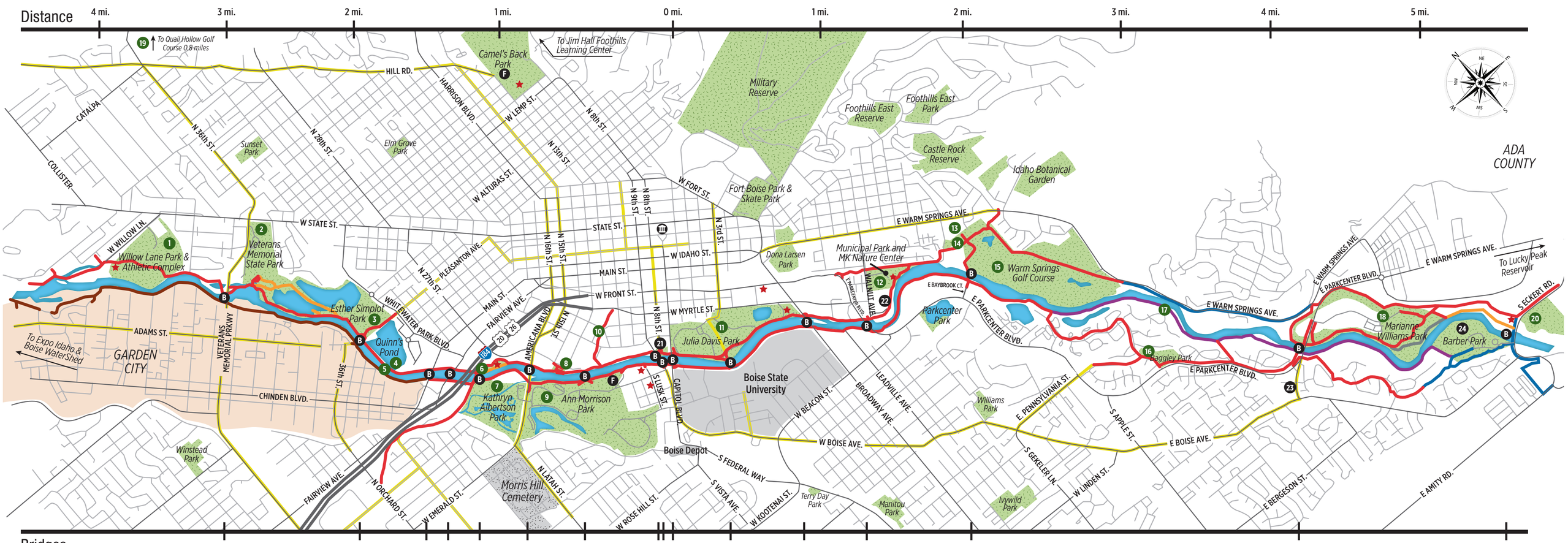


Boise River Greenbelt Historical Education Project

As it traverses the valley, the Boise River Greenbelt becomes a four-season classroom for learning about the area's diverse cultural and environmental past. Look for a series of historic signs that teach us about the Native American presence in the area, Chinese gardens, early air service, the Davis apple orchards, the founding of Boise Cascade and much more. Originally installed in 1990 for the state's centennial celebration, the signs were refurbished in 2013 for the City of Boise's 150-year anniversary.



Bridges

36th St. Bridge *(Paved)* ***pedestrian and bicycles only***

Veterans Memorial Parkway Bridge Greenbelt path runs both on and under bridge

W. Fairview Bridge Greenbelt path runs under bridge

W. Main St. Bridge Greenbelt path runs under bridge

Railroad Trestle Bridge Greenbelt path connects with Orchard St. ***pedestrian and bicycles only***

Pioneer Bridge *(Paved)* Greenbelt bridge connects Ann Morrison Park and River St. ***pedestrian and bicycles only***

S. Americana Blvd. Bridge Greenbelt path runs under bridge

S. 8th St. Bridge *(Wooden)* ***pedestrian and bicycles only***

S. 9th St. Bridge *(Road Bridge)* Greenbelt path runs under bridge.

S. Capitol Blvd. Bridge Greenbelt path runs under bridge

Bob Gibb Friendship Bridge *(Paved)* Greenbelt bridge connects BSU campus with Julia Davis Park ***pedestrian and bicycles only***

S. Broadway Ave. Bridge Greenbelt path runs under bridge

W. Parkcenter Bridge Greenbelt path runs under bridge

Baybrook Court (orange) **Bridge** *(Paved)* ***pedestrian and bicycles only***

E. Parkcenter Blvd. Bridge *(Two bridges)* Greenbelt path runs under bridge on both sides of river. North side - paved South side - gravel, walking only

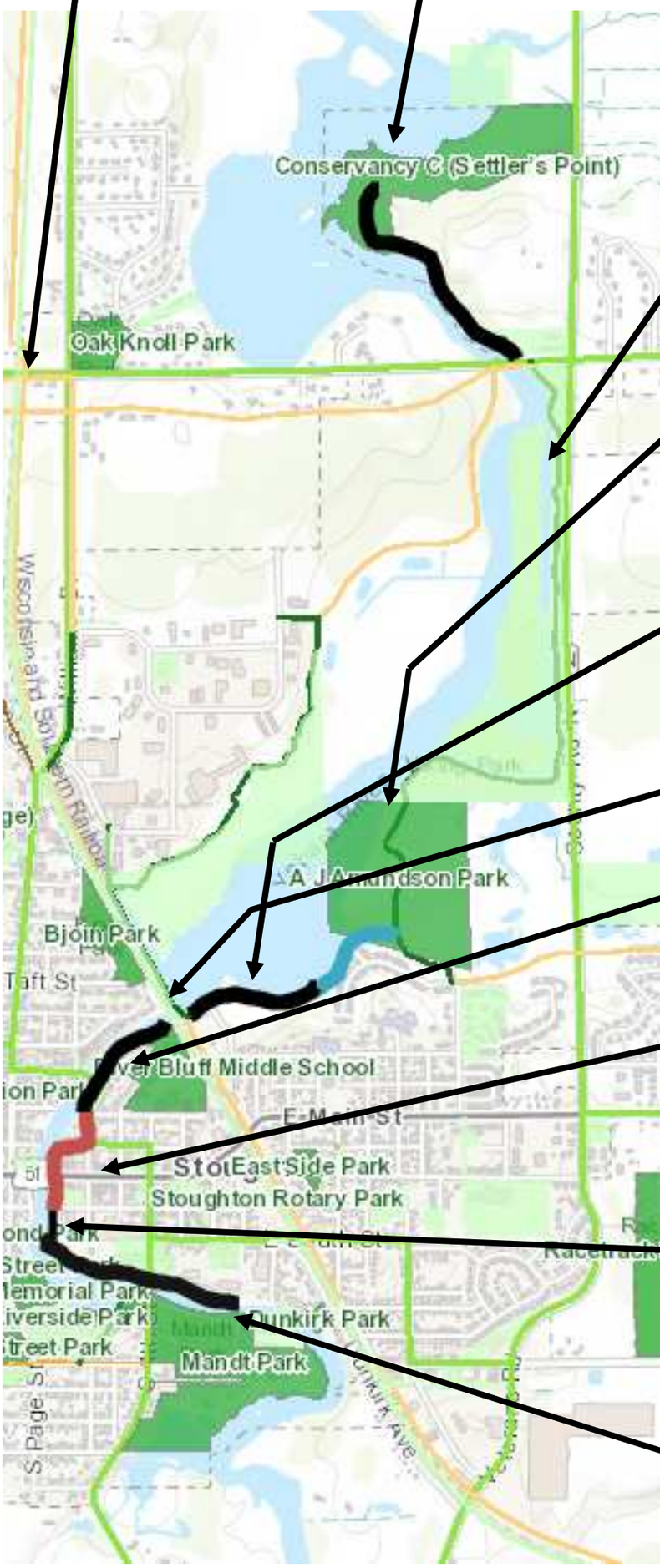
S. Eckert St. Bridge Greenbelt path runs along street

Stoughton Yahara River Greenway

Lower Yahara River Trail (connection to state park, McFarland, and Madison)

Settler's Point Conservancy & Planned Trail

Viking County Park



Amundson Park

Planned Boardwalk

Cooper's Causeway

Division St Park

Three blocks of on-road trail through downtown

Possible new park. Approximately 345 LF of Riverfront

Whitewater Park, Riverwalk, Mandt Park, and Riverside Park