

The Greater Blackfoot Area Greenbelt

The concept of a bike path that would serve the Blackfoot Community and someday tie the surrounding communities together began in 1987. The path would not have been possible without the vision and foresight of dedicated individuals and generous people who have contributed to make this path possible. Dedication of the Greenbelt took place Wednesday, August 17, 2005.

Donations from many individuals leveraged additional federal funds which paid for the majority of the greenbelt. The City of Blackfoot and Bingham County in conjunction with the Idaho Department of Transportation participated in the application, design and construction of the project.

In 2005, the path was extended from Jensen's Grove to include the Rose Pond recreation area. The bike path loops around some the ponds and is adjacent to the archery range.

If you travel the entire distance going around the loops on each end of the trail you will travel a total of 9.6 miles. There are hopes of adding on to this trail and extending the path further, connecting the communities of Moreland, Firth, Shelley and even onto Idaho Falls. It could eventually extend further to the north towards Rexburg and maybe beyond.

The existing trail provides opportunities for bicycling, jogging, walking and rollerblading.

Please use, appreciate and respect the facility that has been generously donated for our community.

Greenbelt Land Donation

This section of the Greenbelt was made possible through the donation of the ground by M. Jean Johnson, wife of the late Robert Johnson and his brother, Amil Johnson. It is dedicated to the memory of Nels M. Johnson (1864-1934), his first wife Margarete (1874-1908), wife Mathilda (1886-1970) and their children Lynn, Irene, Margaret, Roy, Ida, Henry, Harrah, Gladys, and Amil, Robert and Edith.

Nels emigrated from Sweden in 1888. He and his family came to Idaho from Wyoming by covered wagons to homestead this property in 1903. Nels was an innovative pioneer.

He was responsible for many “firsts” in the Groveland area including irrigation projects and getting electricity to the farm. His family farmed the surrounding acres of ground for 90 years, raising potatoes and grain. They also raised many farm animals and included a “Grade A Dairy”. The original home, farm buildings potato cellars and dairy barn were located on this site. The family garden, orchard and several large mulberry trees were also located here. They loved this scenic area along the river and they all enjoyed the “fishing hole” and swimming in the canal as well as the river on hot summer days.

Dedication of the Greenbelt took place Wednesday, August 17, 2005.

Cannon Bridge

In honor of two brothers with a passion for building bridges:

Joseph S. Cannon, founder of Cannon Builders, Inc., which donated the concrete materials and labor for this bridge.

John P. Cannon, founder of Cannon Structures, Inc., Trestlewood Division, which donated the wood for this bridge.

Engineering donated by: Harper-Leavitt Engineering, Inc.

Reclaimed Materials in the Bridge Include:

- 1) Steel beams were salvaged from the Snake Fiver Bridge near Firth, which was taken down and replaced by Cannon Builders, Inc.
- 2) Wood decking and handrails are from the Lucin Cutoff Trestle that crossed the Great Salt Lake.
- 3) Wood arches are from the Odgen, Utah defense depot.

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