

Boise River Greenbelt

Quality: ***

Distance: 17 miles+

Difficulty: Easy - all abilities

Riding time: 1-2 hours one-way

Tread: Paved path

Season: Year-round, weather permitting

Watch out for: Walkers, joggers, roller-bladers, dogs, kids, you name it

The Boise River Greenbelt is one of the finest urban trails in the Northwest. Thanks to tireless efforts of visionary, dedicated Boise residents, developers and city officials since the early 1960s, an extensive public pathway system has been built along the Boise River from Eagle to Lucky Peak Dam.

At the time of this publication, there were a few gaps on the Greenbelt on the Garden City (south) side of the river between Glenwood and Veterans Park. Cyclists also have to take an unfortunate detour around the Riverside Village area because it is currently designated hiking and running only.

New sections of pathway will be forthcoming in Eagle and Garden City over time. Future plans call for extending the pathway to Eagle Island Park, following the original vision. Someday, we may have a bikeable route along the river all the way to Parma and the Snake River. I urge riders to get involved in trail-planning public meetings to ensure that scarce dollars for pathways are invested wisely.

The maps on the next two pages provide two exploded views of the Greenbelt – from points west of Glenwood to Broadway, and from Broadway to Lucky Peak. A third map shows the 5-mile Greenbelt route and bypass from Eagle to Glenwood. Parking symbols indicate the best places for public parking. Be creative about using the Greenbelt. Look for loop opportunities near your home. The Hill Road-Greenbelt Loop is one obvious loop on the west portion of the path, and there is an excellent loop on the east end starting at Boise State or Municipal Park, traveling out to Eckert Road (Harris Ranch area), and looping back toward town on either side of the river. There are many other shorter loops to consider. The Greenbelt is a great place for winter riding when the foothills trails are muddy.

When you visit the Greenbelt, please observe the following code of etiquette prescribed by Boise Parks and Recreation, Garden City and Ada County:

- Pedestrians have the right of way at all times.
- All Greenbelt users should stay to the right unless they're passing.
- Pedestrians should not walk more than two abreast.
- Dogs should be leashed; the leash should not exceed six feet.
- Keep your speed down when passing pedestrians and say "Hi." Be a good ambassador for your sport and your community.



