

Floodplain Connectivity



Photo: Mountain Visions

Creating a healthy riparian corridor

When the Barber Lumber Company's mill and town were constructed in this area, levees were built to raise the river's banks. This protected Barberton's property fairly well, but cut the river off from its natural floodplain, increasing flood risk downstream.

As recently as 1939, the main Boise River channel flowed right through today's Park. Much of the land south of Warm Springs Rd. was inundated in the 1943 flood. This was one of the first places the river could spread out after entering the valley.

In 2012, the City of Boise incorporated special engineering in the design of Marianne Williams Park, which included removing levees and reconnecting the river with its floodplain. The result: water flowed freely through the Park in June 2012, slowing down, spreading out and percolating into the groundwater to reduce water flows downstream.

Adapted from Idaho Rivers United Barber Area Habitat Walk.

