Barber Pool Conservation Area

Visit the Barber Observation Point to learn more about the BPCA: http://parks.cityofboise.org/parks-locations/parks/barber-observation-point/

Photo: Mountain Visions

The land directly south of this portion of the Greenbelt is the 700-acre Barber Pool Conservation Area (BCPA). Owned by the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands, it is closed to the public and managed for wildlife and education.

The area was altered in the early 1900s by construction of Barber Dam, but it now functions in many ways as a natural area with excellent shrub-steppe, wetland and riparian communities, including one of the valley's last intact stands of black cottonwoods. The BCPA was nominated as one of the top 12 ecosystems in Idaho.

The BCPA stretches along both sides of the river from Diversion Dam to Barber Dam and is bordered by Warm Springs Avenue on the north and the New York Canal on the south. It is home to over 200 species of birds and 60 species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians including elk, deer, otter, beaver, raccoons, coyotes, foxes and a host of birds including wintering bald eagles.

Although this quiet area shelters many birds and animals, many species need more room to roam. Efforts are underway to create a corridor of healthy habitat from Barber Pool to East Park Center Bridge through projects in downstream parks and conservation areas.