

Loggers Creek Habitat

Small Creek, Big Benefits

Natural beauty, abundant wildlife, and enhanced property values are unique benefits we all enjoy living along Loggers Creek. But we cannot take those benefits for granted. With a little effort, we can protect what we love.

WHY WE SHOULD CARE

- A healthy creek adds beauty and property value, and its care starts in our backyards.
- Loggers Creek runs over 2 miles. The City of Boise protects the creek with a required 25-foot natural riparian setback and additional 15-foot setback for any structures.
- The creek provides valuable and shaded habitat for fish, birds, mammals, and pollinators.
- South Boise Water Company relies on creekside vegetation to stabilize banks and prevent erosion.

See the resources and QR code on the back to learn more and take action

WHAT WE CAN DO

- Contact Planning and Development Services at the City of Boise (608-7100) for guidance about proposed changes on Loggers Creek. Approval of a Boise River System application is required for work in these riparian areas, even if it is on private land.
- Follow Boise City Code 11.02.07E(6)e and maintain the required setbacks.
- Maintain native trees, shrubs, and sedges/grasses; gradually remove invasive weeds to stabilize creek banks and keep water clean and flowing.
- Revegetate areas where invasive species have been removed with native plantings.
- Leave leaves, logs, and branches in place—they provide important habitat. Removal is not permitted except under certain circumstances.
- Avoid fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides within 25 feet of the creek (natives reduce this need).



High-Value Native Riparian Plants for Wildlife

Category	Species (Common Name)	Scientific Name	High-Value Wildlife Benefits
TREES	Black Cottonwood	<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	Excellent shade, supports insects, stabilizes banks
	Black Hawthorn (tree form)	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Fruit for birds & mammals, great nesting cover
	Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Supports diverse insects and cavity-nesting birds
	Rocky Mountain Juniper	<i>Rocky Mountain Juniper</i>	Berries feed many birds in winter, shelter cover
	White Alder / Thinleaf Alder	<i>Alnus rhombifolia / A. incana</i>	Nitrogen-fixing, stabilizes banks, pollinator catkins
SHRUBS & UNDERSTORY	Willows (native species) – #1 most valuable riparian plant	<i>Salix</i> spp.	Top plant for bank stabilization, shading, pollinators, beavers, and birds
	Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Food and nesting for birds, erosion control
	Blue Elderberry	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>cerulea</i>	Excellent bird forage, flowers for pollinators
	Woods Rose	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Rose hips feed wildlife, dense cover for nesting
	Golden Currant	<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Early-season nectar, berries for wildlife
	Skunkbush Sumac	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Drought-tolerant, berries loved by birds
	Black Chokecherry / Choke Cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	High-value berries for birds & mammals, dense cover for nesting and shelter
FORBS, SEDGES & GRASSES	Showy Milkweed	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	Monarch host plant, supports butterflies & bees
	Goldenrod (native spp.)	<i>Solidago</i> spp.	Immense pollinator value, late-season nectar
	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Attracts beneficial insects, drought tolerant
	Nebraska or Beaked Sedge	<i>Carex nebrascensis / utriculata</i>	Powerful bank stabilizer, wet-area filtration
	Baltic Rush	<i>Juncus balticus</i>	Excellent for wet edges; improves water quality

Resources

- **Native Plant Lists:**
 - Native Garden Guide for Homeowners: Southwestern Idaho
 - Native Shrubs and Trees for Riparian Areas in the Intermountain West
- **Local Native Plant Nurseries:**
 - North End Organic Nursery
 - Draggin Wing Farm
 - University of Idaho Pitkin Forest Nursery: Our Native Plants
- **South Boise Water Company (SBWC) Website**
- **Contacts:**
 - SBWC Water Master Mike Harrison at (208) 447-8600
 - City of Boise Planning and Development at (208) 608-7100
 - Check out **Friends of Loggers Creek** on Facebook



Links to Resources