



PARKS AND
RECREATION

Adopt the Greenbelt News

A newsletter for participants of the Adopt the Greenbelt program.

Adopt the Greenbelt Volunteer Spotlight - Golden Eagle Audubon Society

November, 2020



In early October, as part of a habitat improvement project, volunteers from the Golden Eagle Audubon Society installed 80 native trees and shrubs along their adopted section of the Bethune Church River Trail. The Golden Eagle Audubon Society is committed to conserving and enhancing habitat for birds and other wildlife across the Treasure Valley. To learn more about their work [click here](#). Do you have a Greenbelt story to share? If so, please send it to kgnojewski@cityofboise.org so we can highlight your work.



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FOCUS ON NATIVE PLANTS - Louisiana sage

Louisiana sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), also known as silver wormwood, is a perennial plant that reaches from 1 to 3 feet in height at maturity. The foliage and stalks are silver. In the spring, the stalks are covered with small, inconspicuous yellow - white flowers. Louisiana sage is often found in clusters composed of several individual stalks. It is an excellent



plant for restoration projects as it is adapted to a range of soil conditions, spreads rapidly, and has a dense root system. Traditionally Louisiana sage has been used by Native Americans for ceremonial and medicinal purposes. It is found widely throughout the Greenbelt corridor and provides food for insects, small mammals, and deer throughout the year.



American Beaver and Tree Wrapping

Have you noticed wire wrapped trees throughout your adopted Greenbelt section? Fall and winter are excellent times to evaluate the condition of this protective wire and if possible, to plan a wrapping project. Beaver activity seems to pick up this time of year as water levels in ponds, canals, and the Boise river decrease. The American beaver (*Castor canadensis*), is North America's largest rodent and native to the Boise River. In undeveloped



settings, beavers can provide a multitude of ecological benefits including wetland creation, improved water quality, and increased local biodiversity. Unfortunately due to the narrow riparian corridor and limited natural Black cottonwood regeneration, beavers can rapidly become problematic along the Greenbelt. Their

preferred diet includes the bark of willow, cottonwood, birch, aspen, alder and poplar trees. Along the Boise River, Black cottonwoods and willow are among their favorite food sources. If you notice freshly chewed trees or see wire that needs to be attended to please let us know. Thank you for all you do to keep the riparian ecosystem healthy for people and wildlife!

Dark-eyed Junco

The first appearance of a Dark-eyed junco in Boise is a sure sign that winter is just around the corner. As elevational migrants, Dark-eyed juncos spend the breeding season in the mountainous high country then move to lower elevations in late fall and winter. Juncos are about the size of a sparrow and can be identified in flight by distinctive white outer tail feathers. Their feather color patterns can vary widely, ranging from individuals with slate grey heads and light grey bodies, to those with black heads and buff colored bodies. Primarily seed eaters, juncos are often seen foraging on the ground beneath vegetation or feeders. Their beaks are light colored and conical shaped. Juncos frequently emit high pitched chirps while feeding. Keep your eyes open for flashes of white tail feathers this fall.