

PARADISE PATH

Along Paradise Creek in Moscow

2.23 Miles

Description:

The east/west axis of Paradise Path weaves along Paradise Creek through the north end of the University of Idaho campus and along the south side of the city of Moscow. Paradise Path is a 2.23 mile paved trail that begins where the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail ends on the west end of town, and it extends to the east end of town where the Latah Trail begins. The path provides an alternate option for transportation to the city's major origin and destination points. It provides recreational opportunities for pedestrians, joggers, in-line skaters, and bicyclists to enjoy a safe, non-motorized transportation corridor. The path connects to several parks and is equipped with several benches along the way. The path is also beautified by a variety of trees and shrubbery native to the Palouse area.



History:

1973:

- Janet Fisk begins discussion about a linear park and trail system in Moscow.

1992:

- A linear park became the priority of the city thanks to the work of Larry Hodge to get the idea on the City Council priority list. Eventually this plan would turn into what is Paradise Path, today.



1994:

- May- Moscow Mayor Paul Agidius appointed a Linear Park Task Force for the purpose of planning and developing a linear park system through the Moscow area. The Task Force has included anywhere between five and twelve members appointed by the Mayor.

1995:

- The city received planning assistance from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance to assist the Task Force in planning the proposed trail system.
- Stanley Stockwell of Moscow donated land east of Berman Creekside Park. The amount of land donated to the Paradise Path project was 1.07 acres.

1996:

- As part of the development of Alturas Technology Park, Eugene and JoAnn Thompson quit claim deeded 22,560.72 square feet (Linear = 867.72' x 26.0') of land adjacent to the Paradise Path property. This property extends from the corner of Mountain View Road west, 867.72 feet (not including the Alturas Parkway entry road.)

1997:

- May- Governor Phil Batt announced in May of 1997 that Moscow would receive \$17,593 for the Sweet Avenue segment of the Paradise Path. The money came from the Stripper Well Petroleum Violation Escrow Fund which pays for alternative forms of transportation and energy conservation projects in Idaho.
- Eugene and Jo Ann Thompson quitclaim deeded to the City of Moscow an 800-foot long by 100-foot wide area (80,000 square feet) where the old railway right-of-way was situated. This piece of property is along Travois Way from Styner Street to Blaine Street.



1998:

- The City of Moscow budgeted \$50,000 for trail projects. This money has been used to develop and secure portions of the Paradise Creek bank along the trail.

1999:

- The University of Idaho secured \$40,000 from the state of Idaho, which was matched by the University to develop the Sweet Avenue path section of Paradise Path.
- November – Conrad Smith donated a 1,566 square foot permanent easement of land within the Deerfield addition to the Paradise Path project (Location: 300’ west of Styner Ave/Troy Hwy intersection on Paradise Path.) Alpine Designs MTB also contributed to the fundraising effort by donating bikes to be raffled off. The money raised through this fundraiser was used for the Sweet Avenue portion of the Paradise Path.

2004:

- By 2004, the Task Force had raised over \$19,000 dollars for the trail system. Because of the efforts of the Task Force with fundraising, the City of Moscow approved a \$2,000 dollar budget for future fundraising activities.
- The University of Idaho Regents and the City of Moscow approved the land transaction with WATCO incorporated for the railroad properties to be used for the east/west axis of Paradise Path. In return, the Railroad gained the property south of Gritman Medical Center. Gritman Medical Center later gained ownership of this property and began working with the City of Moscow and the Task Force to use the land as part of the trail system. In late 2004, the City of Moscow was awarded a \$7,800 grant from the Idaho Department of Lands. The grant money was used to landscape the area from Mountain View Road east to Carmichael Road.
- December- Bill Martson donated land next to the Berman Creekside Park. The land was used for the trail to continue towards the beginning of the Latah Trail and to allow patrons to access the Berman Creekside Park from the trail. A temporary easement was also created at this time for a temporary bike path between the Martson Property and Highway 95.



2005:

- July- Northwest River Supplies (NRS), under the direction of Bill Parks, donated \$35,000 to the Paradise Path project to pave the path between Blaine Street and Highway 95, allowing more of the Paradise Path to be trail-usable and safe for bicycles. Construction on this portion of the trail began in August. Some of the donated money was also used to provide stop signs and pedestrian drops at the intersections of Blaine Street and Styner Street. Pedestrian lights were also installed at Blaine Street and Highway 8. The signs were a short-term solution to the safety concerns raised by the pedestrians and bicyclists that used the trail.
- October- The Paradise Path Task Force held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Blaine Street junction to commemorate the completion of the path property acquisition from the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail to the Latah Trail. At this time, even though Paradise Path was not completely finished, several sections were paved and the majority of the initial path was bike friendly.

2006:

- Reconstruction on Washington Street began in the downtown area of Moscow. Roger Blanchard assisted City Engineer Dean Weyen in arranging for the asphalt grindings from the construction to be taken and used to upgrade the path. Upgraded areas for this project included the area between Berman Creekside Park and Highway 95 as well as the area between College Avenue and Sixth Street. Northwest River Supplies (NRS) donated the funding for spreading and rolling the asphalt grindings used from the Washington Street construction. This provided more areas of the trail to supply a user friendly path for bikes and also to prepare the trail for pavement.
- Latah County, with the help of the Latah Trail Foundation, secured several grants to develop the Latah Trail from Moscow to Troy, which would connect to Paradise Path. However, Latah County and the Latah Trail Foundation were unable to begin paving certain areas of the Latah Trail. They approached the Paradise Path Task Force about using the leftover grant money to pave areas on the Paradise Path sections. The proposal was presented to the county and was approved. The grant money was then used to pave an area just east of Berman Creekside Park to Blaine Street.



2007:

- April- Craig Roach from the Recreation Student Organization (RSO) at the University of Idaho approached the Task Force about providing service hours. The RSO provided many hours of clean-up and tree planting along Paradise Path from Berman Creekside Park to the east city limits.
- July- Paradise Path installed new way-finding signs along the University sections to help promote more frequent student use of the path.

2008:

- October- Paradise Path was paved between Highway 95 and Berman Creekside Park. The Task Force also began working with the railroad to secure an additional easement along the south side of Paradise Creek east of Highway 95. This easement would help make the path 10 feet wide.

2011:

- To adequately handle flooding issues, the City of Moscow and the University of Idaho appropriated funding to widen the Paradise Creek channel, including adding a new bridge for Paradise Path.
- April 25- After serving 18 years on the Moscow City Council, Linda Pall was honored at the 2011 Arbor Day celebration with 18 red oaks planted along Paradise Path. The plantings start at Styner Ave and continue west along the trail.

2015:

- New striping along paradise path was painted.



2017:

- September 9- A portion of Paradise Path that goes through the University of Idaho campus was named after Idaho Olympian Kristin Armstrong. Kristin is a three-time gold medalist and a UI alumni.
- City Council Approves the Highway 8 Underpass pedestrian and bike route along Paradise Path.



2018:

- September- The Highway 8 Underpass is completed.
- June 29- The grand opening of the Underpass takes place.



Cyclist using the new Highway 8 Underpass



This is the other side of the path, to the left of the U.I. Student Recreation Center facing north of the Recreation Center. The plan is to open up the entire ditch line all the way over to the new road, “stadium drive.”



The construction went all the way down to the stop light and over to the North or the U.I. Student Recreation Center. It is designed to handle more flood terrain for future environmental occurrences.

