

Press Release – For Immediate Release

Date: August 3, 2018

Contact: Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands, Jan Johns, Executive Director, jan@idaholands.org, 208.344.7141

Subject: Plantation Island Bridge on the Greenbelt, repair update

People keep asking when the gap in the Greenbelt over the Boise River near the Plantation Golf Course will be fixed. The bridge at Plantation Island was located on land owned by the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands (IFPL), a public benefit nonprofit corporation. Due to extreme flood levels of the Boise River, the City of Boise, Ada County and the Ada County Highway District paid for the removal of the bridge and it was lifted off its abutments on April 3, 2017. The damage left behind to the island and abutments from the over 9,000 cfs flow of the Boise River was extensive.

The emergency declaration by Governor Otter for the overall flooding event allowed the IFPL to apply for grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help with repair costs. Unfortunately, hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico and massive forest fires in California stretched FEMA resources in the review and approval process of emergency grant funding, delaying approval for more than a year.

Finally, in late June 2018, IFPL received approval from FEMA for partial funding of the project to restore the bridge. The overall project for repairing both abutments, restoring the island bank on the north side of the Greenbelt, lifting and placing the bridge back in place, plus repairing the pathway between the 2 bridges, including all permits and review processes is expected to cost between \$160,000 and \$200,000. While FEMA will reimburse a portion of the expenses, IFPL must cover the

remaining balance of the total repair cost. Between now and October, IFPL will reach out to recreationalists, bike and commuter groups and municipalities to raise \$75,000 before fall so that bid requests for repairs may be issued, awarded and work completed while the Boise River is at low winter flow levels. The ability to work on the bridge abutments only comes around once a year, from about December to March while the Boise River is at a minimum flow level of 400 cfs.

The land, the bridge and the Greenbelt at Plantation Island were originally gifted by different donors who had a vision of a great Greenbelt trail system throughout the Treasure Valley. Most Boiseans do not know the story of all the people involved in securing the Greenbelt trail system yard by yard and mile by mile. But, as we walk and ride our bicycles along these wonderful pathways, we all can appreciate what they were able to accomplish. It is time, once again, for Boiseans to step up and contribute to this wonderful community asset by helping the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands to restore the bridge.

To make a gift or to find out more, contact Jan Johns at IFPL, jan@idaholands.org, 208.344.7141, or make a gift online at www.idaholands.org.



