



PARKS AND
RECREATION

Adopt the Greenbelt News

A newsletter for Adopt the Greenbelt program participants.

February 2022

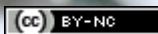
Native Species Spotlight Anna's Hummingbird

(*Calypte anna*)

It might seem impossible that a bird weighing less than an ounce can survive Boise's frigid winters, but the Anna's hummingbird has found a way to carve out a unique niche by spending winters in Idaho. The [Intermountain Bird Observatory at Boise State University](#) has been studying these beautiful birds since 2015, and their research has documented a marked increase in the number of Anna's hummingbirds overwintering in our state over the last decade. Anna's hummingbirds frequent heated feeders throughout the winter and supplement their diets with insects. Keep your eyes and ears open for these tiny survivors as you are out along the Greenbelt. Anna's often perch on bare branches near the top of trees or shrubs. If you listen carefully, you might hear a male singing a [series of buzzes, followed by a whistle and chips](#) as he moves through the vegetation. Anna's have straight bills and are stocky as far as hummingbirds go. The males (shown below) have a stunning pink throat with a metallic green back. Females have just a few reddish pink feathers on their throats.



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Greenbelt History and Map

For over 50 years, the Boise River Greenbelt has been a beloved resource for recreation and transportation. You can learn about the history of the Greenbelt [here](#). If you need information about current Greenbelt closures and detours, an up-to-date [interactive map](#) can be found [here](#).

Riparian Mammals

Can you distinguish between the four mammals shown below? They are all found in and around the Boise River.

Answers at the bottom of page.



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American beaver,
North American river
otter, American
mink, Muskrat