

Enjoy a stroll and a story

La Grande StoryWalk features books by the river

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

LA GRANDE — Getting exercise and reading a book don't have to be exclusive activities, thanks to Cook Memorial Library's StoryWalk program at Riverside Park.

The newest installation features "Dreamers" by Yuyi Morales,

a story about migrants as they make their way to a new home.

The book is changed about once a month, said Mackenzie Isaak, who works in children's services at Cook Memorial Library.

Each month's selection is sponsored, and Isaak said the sponsor can choose the book or have the library find a selection. The monthly selection often relates to a holiday or other celebration.

"We try to do something seasonal," she said.

The StoryWalk features 20 posts along the walking path across the bridge from Riverside Park, just past the dog park. The project, installed in 2017, is a collaboration between Cook Memorial Library, La Grande Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works.

The StoryWalk concept was created by Anne Ferguson of



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

The Cook Memorial Library StoryWalk, as seen on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, invites walkers to share a story during their stroll on the path across the bridge from Riverside Park.

Montpelier, Vermont, and was developed with the help of Rachel Senechal at Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Beginning in 2011, StoryWalks have now been installed in all 50 states and 13 countries.

When a book is selected, Isaak said the library orders two hardcover copies (two are

needed because the pages have text on the front and back). The pages are cut out of the book, laminated and then installed on the posts. The story usually covers 16 posts, leaving a few for the welcome sign, sponsor recognition, book lists or a craft idea.

"The goal is to get families to read together, and to get outside," Isaak said.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the StoryWalk can pick up a form at Cook Memorial Library, 2006 Fourth St. Isaak said sponsors have been businesses, individuals or families.

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