

Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) Staff meeting
10 AM – Tuesday, October 17, 2023
Icon Sports Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Meeting room
Grand Forks, ND
Meeting Notes

George Hellyer, GF Park District
Steve Hell, GF Park District
Catherine Johnson, MN DNR
Carter Hunter, GF engineering
Sgt. Kris Brown, GF police

Larry Hagen, Turtle River SP
Tyler Manske, MPO
Jeremy King, EGF Parks & Rec
Kim Greendahl, City of GF
Theresa Flitter, City of GF

I. Old Business

- A. Snowmobile route extension proposal update:** Mayor Bochenski assembled a group to work on a recommended route for consideration by the city council. The group has met twice, once to discuss the issue and once in the field to look at route options. Larry and Jeremy are part of the group and said that the meetings have been productive and there have been good discussions on both sides of the issue. There has been honest discussion and give and take. Safety for all users has been the biggest concern.

The working group discussed moving the ski trails away from the river and making the trails closer to the river a snowmobile route. What are the best routes for each type of user? The trees block with wind for skiers. Snowmobiles have heated seats, handlebars, etc.

The working group looked at options where snowmobiles would cross or be close to other users. The goal is to develop a route that covers the length of the Greenway and limits the crossings and interactions with other users. The infield tour revealed that one home would have snowmobile headlights shining into their house with the current route near Adams Drive. Getting the route out of the Greenway and city limits will be challenging. There is an easement behind the properties on Shady Ridge that could be used, but the property owners most likely would not be interested in that option.

The next meeting is October 18, and they will decide what to bring forward to the October 23 GF City Council meeting.

- B. Committee chairperson discussion:** Reid has accepted the EGF City Administrator position and will no longer be able to chair this group. The group usually elects a chairperson every two years in February. Past chairs have been from the GF Park District, EGF Parks and Recreation, and the Friends of the Greenway group. No one from the City of GF has been the chair so far. The City of GF has always provided the administrative work for this group. With all the new people in the group, there is a need for continuity. The GF Park District is not interested in chairing currently. Kim will take the position while everyone gets acclimated to the organization.

C. Updating the Greenway vision statement: The original statement came from public meetings back in 2000 – 2001. It's a long and cumbersome statement that reflects the feeling of the public at the time. This committee revised the statement but didn't roll it out publicly because of concerns with the timing. The committee agreed to update the vision statement and release it to the public in January or February.

D. Kiosk map project: Kim will work with Jeremy and Catherine to get these ordered.

II. New Business

A. New brochures: Lots of people are going to electronic information, but there is still a demand for paper maps. This is especially true in the rest stops, visitor center, and the campground. The QR codes are helpful, but they can't be everywhere all the time. We will continue with a paper format but order less than previous times.

III. Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway, Advisory Group update:

A. Request for meditation areas: A resident proposed an idea for providing about ten areas for people to practice faith and spiritual meditation along the riverbank. These would be spaces where people of different faiths could meditate closer to the river. He suggested that potential sites could have stone paths like the labyrinth located in downtown GF. He was also interested in having benches and an overhead shelter so groups could host classes. Kim talked to the resident after the meeting and suggested that he submit a Project Request form so the idea could be vetted through the proper channels.

IV. Other

A. Gravel on shared-use path at Lincoln Golf: GF Park District staff is working on ideas to fix the problem of gravel from the cart path spilling out onto the shared-use path. Any plan to pave the cart path would have to be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for approval.

V. Agency updates

A. City of EGF: A contractor will be doing an overlay on the shared-use path under the Sorlie Bridge. The water running off the bridge has caused some damage. Jeremy has hired a person to work part-time plowing snow off the shared-use paths this winter. The person retired from the EGF Public Works a few years ago and was looking for something to do this winter. Having the extra help will mean getting the paths cleared quickly.

B. GF Park District: The footgolf flags will be removed and the holes will be prepped for winter.

C. City of GF: A contractor is working on repairs to the floodwall downtown. They should be done next week.

D. Minnesota DNR: The campground will be closing November 5. Catherine has had some problems with people using the walk-in sites and cutting trees for fires.

E. GF Police: The bureau is closer to being fully staffed. There are two Community Service Officers available for patrolling as necessary.

F. MPO: The bridge study is still in progress. The MPO is also working on the Safe Streets for All program and pedestrian crossings at the Grand Valley development.

- G. Turtle River State Park:** Staff is in the process of switching facilities from summer to winter use. The restrooms will be closing soon. The hiring process for 2024 will begin in December. Visitors can now purchase annual permits online.
- VI.** Next meeting date: Greenway Technical Committee 10 AM Tuesday, November 21, 2023, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club meeting room.

Support documents: Draft vision statement

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway specialist, City of GF

Greenway Vision Statement overview

Vision statement 2001:

The Red and Red Lake Rivers Greenway will protect residents of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks from flooding, provide opportunities for economic growth, improve and restore ecological stability of the river corridor, link residents and tourists to four seasons of recreation and transportation facilities, provide linkage between the cities, preserve and promote the history and culture of the region through education, and improve the quality of life for future generations.

•Written by workshop participants (residents of Grand Forks, ND and East Grand Forks, MN) and prepared by Greenways, Inc. and the US Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Greenway Plan of September 2001.

Draft revised statement 2022:

The Greenway of Greater Grand Forks protects residents from flooding while promoting/preserving the ecological stability of the river corridor, year-round recreation, and an **active lifestyle**. It connects/unites the two cities and celebrates/honors our river history.

Key elements and words

Flood protection

Restore ecological stability. Has this been accomplished?

Year-round recreation. Indoor or outdoor?

Provide

Is economic growth still a driver? How is that defined? How does it impact the system?
“Good” growth vs “Bad” growth.

Preserve and promote history and culture of region.

Quality of life is a given

Active voice