

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Committee (BPGAC)

Tuesday, December 20, 2022 – 6 PM
GF City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, Room A102

Meeting Notes

Melanie Parvey, City of GF
Sgt. Dwight Love, GF Police Dept.
Nelson Rosit
Jane Croeker
Richard O'Connor
Christian Danielson, GF Engineering Dept
Carter Ueland, GF Engineering Dept
Brendan Gilmore

Henry Gilmore
Tyson Gilmore
Vern Sanders
Earl Greendahl
Ron Franz
Jodi Carlson
Kim Greendahl
One unknown attendee

I. Bikeway & Pedestrian Items

A. Bicycle & Pedestrian portion of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update: The consultant will be sharing a draft within the next few weeks.

B. 2023 Shared-Use Path project update:

- Washington Reconstruction project from the South End Drainway to 57th Avenue South on the East side of the road.
- Funding has been approved through the Traffic Alternatives program for fiscal year 2024 to install a shared use path along South 48th Street from 32nd Avenue South to 17th Avenue South. This would connect the shared-use path that was installed on 32nd Ave in 2022.

C. League of Cities Bicycle Friendly Community application status: A committee of collaborators has been assembled to complete the application by the February 15, 2023, deadline. A new segment includes data on equity and inclusiveness. The Anne Carlson Center and Blue Zones Project would be good resources for that category.

II. Greenway Items

A. Request to extend snowmobile route south of DeMers Avenue in GF: The current city code identifies the chief of police as the person who designates the snowmobile trail. The city council is working on changing the code to identify the mayor and council members as the responsible parties.

Discussion summary:

- Why was the route approved by the chief and then rejected by the City Council? That's a question for the Council.

- Snowmobiles have been ridden along river since the 1960's. Why the change? Just because it was named the Greenway? Legal use of snowmobiles is defined in city ordinances.
- The snowmobile club is willing to groom and sign the trail for free. Why pass up the offer? The issue is about adding motorized vehicles to an area not previously allowed in that area, not cost.
- Is the snowmobile club reimbursed for that service through the state licensing program? That is the case in MN. Is it the same in ND?
- The trail could be reinstated this season, but for now the signs have been removed and the only route is from the north boat ramp to downtown.
- Concerns about mingling snowmobiles going fast with pedestrians that are not protected.
- How will this impact wildlife in these areas? Unknown.
- The trails could be used by off-road cyclists in the summer.
- Who authorized the survey? The survey was conducted by the Greenway Technical Committee.

B. Equipment rental lockers: Kim has met with a representative from the company to get more details about the lockers. She wants to purchase at least two lockers, but the salesperson has not returned her emails. She will continue to pursue this item.

C. Motorized bicycles and vehicles use brochure: The brochure is ready to print and will be distributed to local law enforcement and bike shops as an educational tool.

D. Annual report: A draft report should be available for the January meeting for input.

III. Other

A. ND Parks and Recreation 12 Months – 12 Hikes Challenge: The Loop trail in the Greenway has been selected as one of the designated trails for this program. Information about the program can be found at www.parkrec.nd.gov/challenges.

Next Meeting date: Tuesday, January 10, 2022, 6 PM at GF City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, room TBD

Next Greenway Technical Committee meeting: 10 AM Tuesday, January 17, 2023, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club meeting room.

Supporting documents: Survey results and analysis 2022 Snowmobile route extension survey

2022 Snowmobile Trail Extension Online Survey Overview

- Survey was available online from November 1 – 16.
- The intent of the survey was to give the local community an opportunity to comment on the proposed extension of the snowmobile trail through The Greenway.
- The survey could only be submitted on one device, but one person could submit a survey on multiple devices. The survey could not be taken twice on a device, even if the device was moved to a new location.
 - Number of responses 214
 - Number of responses from outside the GGF area were 8 self-identified. Approximately 30 with IP addresses outside the GGF area.
- All data was self-reported. IP addresses were cross-referenced to check for anomalies and misrepresentation.
- Surveys were received from the outlying area of Park River, Halstad, Crookston, and Oslo. Others were further away in Fargo and Minot. Responses were also received as far away as Colorado, New Jersey, and New York City.

Overall:

- 176 of the total respondents stated their zip code was 58201.
- 56 respondents stated The Greenway was in their backyard (for those in the 58201 zip code, 51 stated The Greenway was in their backyard, 86 stated they live ¼ mile or less from the greenway).
- 61% of the respondents were male. This is slightly higher than previous surveys on other topics. Age demographics were similar to previous surveys.
- Types of use remained relatively similar to previous surveys, with walking being the most practiced activity.

Survey Question Results for Key Questions

Assuming all responses were sincere

#3 Based on your review of the proposed trail, please share your opinion on the proposal.

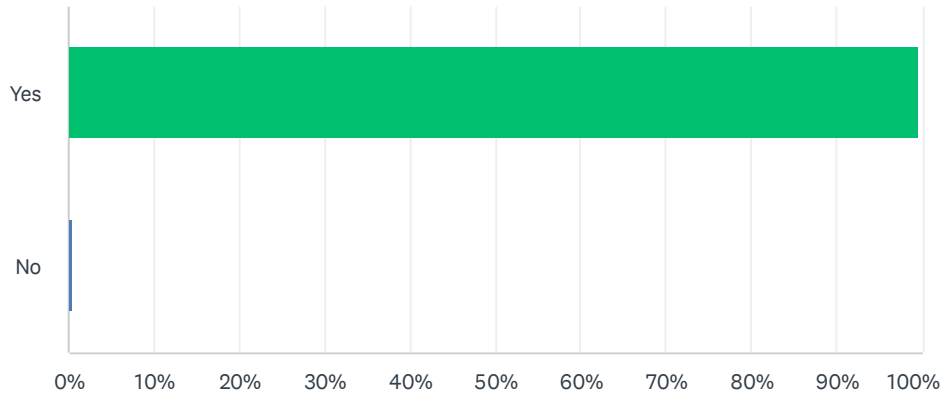
Answers were limited to only one response. Responses one, two, and four are considered positive responses. Response numbers three and five are negative responses. There was also an option for “Other.” The majority of the comments in the “Other”

RESPONSE OPTIONS	ALL RESPONSES	58201 ONLY
This route is adequately signed and will direct riders away from other users unless on a shared trail.	23.83%	24.43%
It's a good distance away from the paved trail.	3.74%	3.41%
It's too close to the paved trails.	6.07%	7.39%
It's a good distance away from the trail used for skiing, walking, and cycling.	11.21%	7.95%
It's too close to the trail used for skiing, walking, and cycling.	26.17%	24.43%
Other (please specify)	28.97%	32.39%

#10 What is your zip code? Responses from the 58201 zip code area outpaced responses from the 58203 zip code area (173 to 17) The new route is entirely in the 58201 area. Eight respondents identified as being out of the area, although it is possible that number is higher.

Q1 Have you reviewed the location of the proposed snowmobile trails extension?

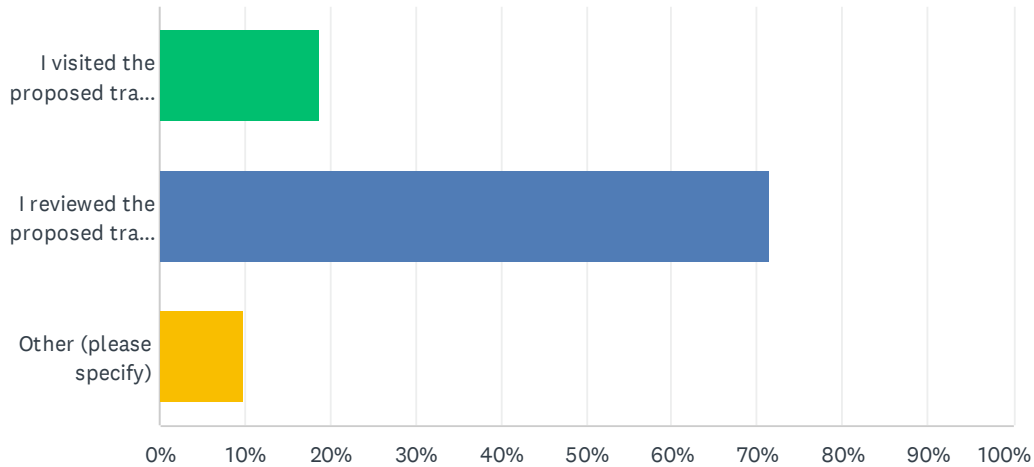
Answered: 212 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	99.53%	211
No	0.47%	1
TOTAL		212

Q2 If yes, what format did you use to review the proposed trail? (please specify)

Answered: 214 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I visited the proposed trail in person	18.69% 40
I reviewed the proposed trail map online	71.50% 153
Other (please specify)	9.81% 21
TOTAL	214

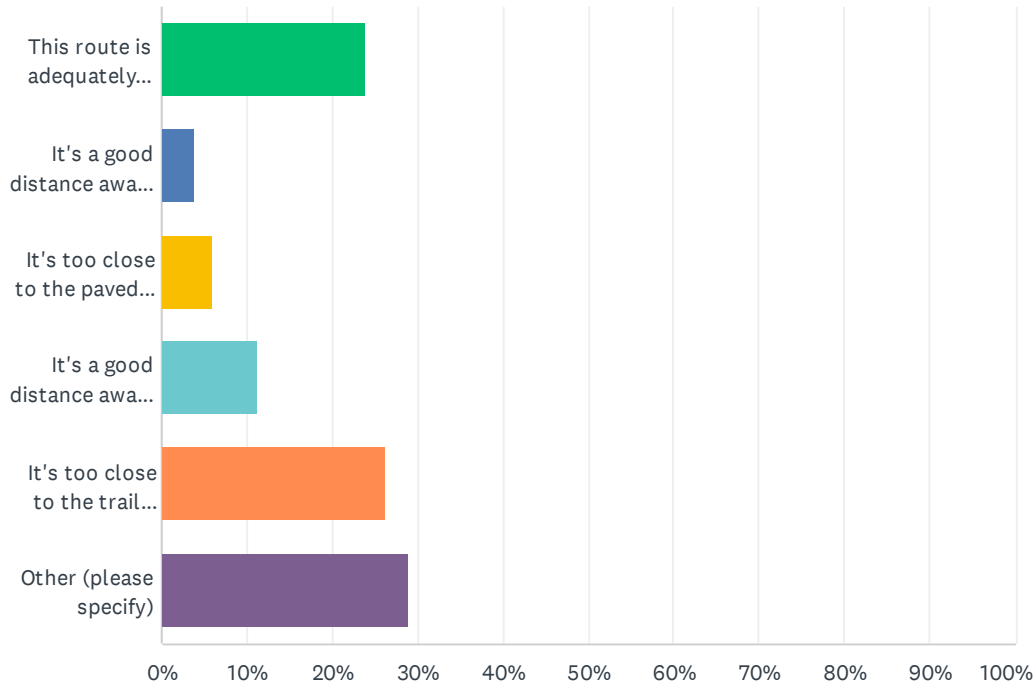
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	i reviewed online and often walk these areas	11/16/2022 11:32 AM
2	I have looked at the online maps and walked part of the route in person	11/16/2022 9:33 AM
3	Both on line and in person	11/15/2022 8:07 PM
4	I looked at the map and I spend time biking, running, skiing, or paddling the Greenway on a nearly daily basis.	11/14/2022 2:16 PM
5	Online and personal view of much of the proposed route.	11/14/2022 11:11 AM
6	Both	11/13/2022 8:59 PM
7	I have reviewed the proposed trail map on line but as a birder and hiker I am familiar with all of the soft trails along the proposed route.	11/13/2022 7:38 PM
8	I reviewed your proposed trail map and I have visited much of the route from Kannowski Park to the south end of Lincoln Golf Course	11/12/2022 3:29 PM
9	Both	11/11/2022 7:50 PM
10	I did both.	11/11/2022 5:50 PM
11	Saw trails and reviewed the map	11/10/2022 10:18 AM
12	both	11/10/2022 8:16 AM
13	Both	11/10/2022 8:11 AM

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14	Both	11/8/2022 8:25 AM
15	I looked at the maps and spend A LOT of time on the Greenway	11/7/2022 5:24 PM
16	In person from 8th to lincoln golf course clubhouse - online for the rest	11/7/2022 1:35 PM
17	Both visited in person and viewed online map.	11/6/2022 12:40 PM
18	I walked and biked some of the proposed trail and also looked at the hole proposed trail online.	11/4/2022 9:48 PM
19	both	11/4/2022 2:43 PM
20	Does that mean I can take my sportsman ATV on the trails. If not why let snowmobiles. Will they be taking to the streets next like the class 2 ATVs	11/4/2022 10:15 AM
21	I looked at the map and have visited the area of the proposed trail.	11/3/2022 5:19 PM

Q3 Based on your review of the proposed trail, please share your opinion on the proposal.

Answered: 214 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
This route is adequately signed and will direct riders away from other users unless on a shared trail.	23.83%	51
It's a good distance away from the paved trail.	3.74%	8
It's too close to the paved trails.	6.07%	13
It's a good distance away from the trail used for skiing, walking, and cycling.	11.21%	24
It's too close to the trail used for skiing, walking, and cycling.	26.17%	56
Other (please specify)	28.97%	62
TOTAL		214

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	The proposed snowmobile trail is a very, very bad idea. The Grand Forks Greenway is a unique landscape and recreational area for public use in the greater Grand Forks community, and the snowmobile trail will impair its use and suitability for other users. I use the Greenway for multiple purposes through multiple seasons: walking, running, hiking, bicycling, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife viewing, and photography. All of these activities, I enjoy in the quite solitude of the natural greenway, without the hustle and bustle of loud, obnoxious snowmobile or ATV engines. Frankly, the desire to run these noise machines through the pristine and peaceful Greenway is a clear disrespect to all these other users of the Greenway space. It is also a unique area for wildlife habitat, being one of the few continuous and large tract areas of wildlife habitat, that is accessible for public viewing and enjoyment. Whether it be ATVs or snowmobiles coming through the Greenway and the soft trails along the river, it will	11/16/2022 2:08 PM

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be a large disturbance to other users and wildlife. The other activities can coincide together in harmony, without disturbing the others. However, these motor activities will completely ruin that experience for other users.

2	There has to be better ideas for sharing the greenway. this is happening very fast.	11/16/2022 11:42 AM
3	This is a truly bad idea for a number of reasons. 1. Too dangerous (snowmobiles can hit pedestrians/bikers/ skateboarders/children/ dogs). 2. Will disturb the wildlife (deer etc.) 3. Noise pollution 4. If you allow snowmobiles now, will you allow ATVs/ other motorized vehicles next? 5. Pollution in general. The Greenway is a beautiful area that is quiet and peaceful, don't ruin it please!	11/16/2022 10:18 AM
4	I am strongly opposed to this plan for many reasons. First: The Greenway even in the wintertime is more heavily used than you seem to acknowledge by fitness walkers and joggers, dog walkers, and snow bicyclers, as well as cross-country skiers. I usually walk between 2-4 miles when I go out, and even on the coldest days I always see numerous other people on the path. I don't know if I have ever gone out on the path and not seen other people. It is not accurate to portray the Greenway as underused in the winter time and thus in "need" of more users. In fact, the idea that the area is "underused" is clearly a subjective statement promulgated by the snowmobile community to support their wishes. Does the City have a standard for what their goal usage is? And what are the metrics that support adequate or inadequate use? Has the City conducted adequate monitoring to really know what the consistent level of use is during the wintertime? In the absence of quantifiable monitoring the argument of "underuse" is nothing but self-serving for the snowmobile community. Second: The proximity of high-speed snowmobiles to people on foot is clearly dangerous and recipe for an accident. It is ludicrous to think that snowmobilers will adhere to a 15 mph speed limit (this is the speed that most bicyclers maintain), which will increase the chances for accidents to happen. Third: at least on the south end of town where I live, many, many children sled down the wet side of the dike - including places where the snowmobile track will cut across, such as the 47th street ramp over the dike. This is a terrible accident waiting to happen - does the City really want a child to get hurt or killed by a snowmobiler while sledding? Fourth: the noise pollution from the snowmobiles will degrade the experience of the area for the current users. Even now snowmobilers go out on the river and the noise carries for miles - and that is just from one person. If multiple riders are on the path there could be continuous noise that will have a strong negative effect on the peace of the users as well as the residents whose houses are close to the dike. Fifth: I believe that this is a first step towards trying to open the Greenway for other motorized vehicles. During the summer I do bicycle riding over many miles of the area - and over the past couple of summers, especially near the golf course, people are becoming brazen about riding ATVs and golf carts on the path and over the Pat Owens bridge. I have seen groups of 3-4 vehicles riding caravans through these areas, they bully you off the path so they can pass. The city may be unaware that this occurs - but I am sure that if snowmobiles are allowed during the winter that people with ATVs will demand access to the greenway during the summer. Sixth: The Greenway is a fabulous area now - an absolute gem that is strongly positive for the quality of life here. Please don't ruin it for a much larger number of people than you apparently want to believe to allow a few additional miles of paths for snowmobilers when they already have many miles to ride on.	11/16/2022 9:33 AM
5	Bad idea, let them use the EGF side. It was bad each winter on Elmwood Dr, there were snowmobilies on the dike and across the area. No one paid any attention to where they should of been.	11/16/2022 1:18 AM
6	Snowmobiles should not be allowed on the greenway. Too fast and dangerous so close to other non-motorized uses and children. Too loud for residents near buy.	11/15/2022 8:07 PM
7	Was on the greenway on Sunday Nov 13th. We're already snowmobile trails all over. In the past I have been upset with snowmobiles crossing the ski trails. Not opposed to snowmobiles if they stay on the trails!!	11/15/2022 7:29 PM
8	My name is REDACTED I am a resident of Grand Forks. I strongly oppose any motorized vehicles on the Greenway. We have enjoyed the environment and the solitude of the Greenway for a number of years. My family members, my dog and I have walked the paths & trails an estimated 5 times per week for past 8 plus years, whether they may be the areas of Riverside Park, Lincoln Park, Lincoln Park Golf Course or Elmwood, along with Ryan Pond. May we continue to keep the Greenway- Simple! Watching bald eagles soar, barred owls hoot, the drumming of woodpeckers, crows cawing, squirrels scampering, geese honking, ducks swooshing, pheasants cackling, kids playing, in solitude, especial in the Lincoln Golf Course are; it is very Enjoyable, Refreshing and- Simple! All people, residents or nonresidents, are	11/15/2022 3:22 PM

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welcomed to enjoy the beauty and the solitude of the Greenway; just please park your vehicle(s) in the parking lot(s) and take to the trails- Simple! In March of 2020 the Grand Forks Herald reported a rarely sighted, boreal owl in the Greenway. Mr. Dave Lambeth kept vigil for hours so Birders from as far away as Fargo, Williston, Jamestown and Stanley were able to come and enjoy the site. We also experienced it; Exciting and- Simple! Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but trees barren of foliage in the winter and the site of tree trunks entangled and scatters by high water, may not be the most attractive for many people, but it certainly is great for wildlife habitat and solitude- Simple! Please keep the Greenway- Relaxing, Exciting, Exhilarating, Enjoyable, Refreshing- Keep it Simple! Please deny the Red River Snowmobile Clubs request to operate trails on the Greenway. Please keep the Greenway void of motorized vehicles- Keep it Simple! Can not the Red River Snowmobile Club use the Red River to commute to the downtown area?

9	I think it is a terrible idea to have snowmobiles anywhere along the Greenway. When I go to the Greenway, my main purpose is to 1) unwind from the stress of the day and relax in nature and 2) look for and enjoy wildlife. Snowmobiles along these trails would scare wildlife from this very important natural area and would push me away from using the Greenway because the noise of snowmobiles would take away from the peaceful aspects of the Greenway. There is space outside of town for snowmobiles. Make a snowmobile trail there, not in the Greenway. On the wildlife of the Greenway, the Greenway is a very important area for owls in the winter, specifically long-eared, great-horned, barred, and northern saw-whet owls. Snowmobile traffic along this corridor would discourage such birds from stopping over along the greenway or from inhabiting the area at all. The winter is a very important time for owls as they begin their breeding seasons in the winter, not in the spring like other bird species. Having snowmobiles would disturb such breeding activities.	11/15/2022 2:49 PM
10	I think that the trail is too close to trails used for skiing, walking, and cycling as well as too close to areas where children sled.	11/15/2022 7:49 AM
11	Concerned with possible damage to the dike if snowmobiles were to drive on slopes as they proceed north of 62nd Avenue South.	11/14/2022 3:11 PM
12	The solution to the snowmobile problem is NOT to simply allow them down there. Instead, they can be given access points to the river and they should be limited to those. Beyond law enforcement and maintenance, there should be no other motorized vehicles on the Greenway.	11/14/2022 2:16 PM
13	It's right behind our house and can be dangerous with kids around. I would prefer it go on the other side of the tree line behind east Prairiewood.	11/14/2022 1:21 PM
14	The less they cross the better. Unclear what impact adding trail will have. Hopefully it directs motorized traffic away from ski/bike groomed trail as the snowmobiles wind up on them a fair bit as it has been. I like having the ski trail closer to river route in general, and current set up from Railroad to under the point bridge is good. (It is different than map shows, and where the non-motorized groomed trail has been in past.) I use the Greenway 5 to seven days a week, year around, and live a block off it. I'm not opposed to giving this a try, knowing it can be stopped if not working.	11/13/2022 9:36 PM
15	Snowmobile trail extension into the Greenway is a BAD idea for several reasons: 1. Noise Level in Residential Area. Article 5 of GFK City Code (Noise Control, Section 10.0507; Table III) sets the decibel limit for a residential zone at 55, which exceeds the decibel levels of a normal snowmobile. A 4-stroke snowmobile at 20 mph averages between 64 and 68 decibels (https://www.soneticscorp.com/noise-levels-and-the-threat-of-hearing-loss/). Several snowmobiles traveling together produce even louder decibels. As expressly stated in the GFK City Code "excessive sound and vibration are a serious hazard to the public health and welfare, safety, and quality of life". Noise produced by snowmobiles on the Greenway will impact the quality of life for a greater number of residents living near the Greenway than the number of snowmobilers making the noise on the Greenway. 2. Safety of Others. Despite claims to contrary, the Greenway during winter months is used by other community members besides cross-country skiers. This includes; winter-time dog-walkers, trail bicyclist w/ special tires, bird-watchers, and most worrisome of all, children sledding down the dike (e.g., 47th avenue entrance). One pet, adult, or child injured or killed by a snowmobile is not worth the money that the RRV Snowmobile Club promises to pay to maintain their trails. 3. Rogue players. Once it becomes common knowledge that the GFK Greenway is open to motorized vehicles, it will not be possible to restrict the use of the Greenway to only the RRV Snowmobile Club. It will be open to anyone with a snowmobile. Furthermore, it is naive to state the the 15 mph speed limit will be enforced by volunteers. How will be speeders be	11/13/2022 9:17 PM

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apprehended (high-speed chases?) and what will be the penalties if a rogue snowmobiler is apprehended?

16	I am opposed to allowing snowmobiles use this area. They are noisy, disturb wildlife, and are a hazard and annoyance to other users of the trails. A wide variety of users visit the area all through the winter including dog walkers, photographers, birders, hikers, bike riders. Furthermore to think that snowmobilers will adhere to a 15 mph speed limit is delusional. That limit cannot be effectively enforced.	11/13/2022 7:38 PM
17	I think this is a dangerous idea. Two years ago I was nearly hit by a snowmobile on the ski trail. The trails have always been marked but it doesn't stop snowmobiles from using them now. The trails should be completely separated different areas of the greenway. Snowmobiles can go anywhere on the river or on the trails outside of city limits. Many people use the greenway trails for different reasons and it would be very difficult to enjoy the outdoors with snowmobiles racing by. Why ruin a good thing.	11/13/2022 7:38 PM
18	Why would you allow a snowmobile trail right through the East Prairiewood neighborhood? Little kids play on the dike in the winter. The noise will be horrible with sleds going by all times of the day and night. My main concern is that this will turn into a raceway at night when people leave the downtown bars.	11/13/2022 5:41 PM
19	The trail goes through some residential areas. This is a detrimental for several reasons. First, safety. Children play in the snow on the dike. Second, noise pollution. Snowmobiles are loud. Will there be any curfews? Also who will enforce the speed limits?	11/13/2022 4:22 PM
20	I do not see adequate signage, along with I do not feel that the trail is separated from others enough. The portion south of 47th to 62nd poses risk to children playing in backyards of homes.	11/13/2022 10:49 AM
21	DON'T LIKE THE IDEA. TOO CLOSE TO RESIDENTIAL HOMES IN MANY PROPOSED SECTIONS. GUARANTEE GREENWAY WILL GET BEAT UP WITH SNOWMOBILE USAGE.	11/13/2022 10:26 AM
22	I live near and use the Grand Forks Greenway paved trail and walking trail system multiple times a week on a year round basis. In my opinion expanding snowmobile access to the GF Greenway is an extremely bad idea and would present a very real danger to trail users and families who recreate in the Greenway during the winter season.	11/13/2022 9:04 AM
23	The route looks OK to me, but my 8+ years of experience taking regular walks in the Greenway year round leads me to believe that the snowmobilers will abuse their ability to use the Greenway. Each year a different, small set of folks use the Greenway to ripping around on their snowmobiles. (Last year one kid who looked to be about 12 years old drove down 4th Ave. S. from the 300 block of Reeves Dr., entered the Greenway by Kannowski Park, buzzed around for about 10 minutes, and returned home. He did this three or four times a week.) It's almost useless to call the police about these snowmobilers. I can remember calling three times in the last six or so years. About six years ago I called the non-emergency number about a snowmobiler buzzing around me while I was in the Greenway and I was basically told to go away. Two years ago I called about a snowmobiler cutting across my lawn to get from our alley to the Greenway. The patrol car came by about 10 seconds too soon as the snowmobiler exited the Green way right behind the patrol car (not seen by the officer inside). And yesterday I called about a snowmobiler ripping around the Greenway for about 20 minutes in front of my home and near where children were sliding. The only response my cell phone got to the non-emergency number, 701-787-8000, was a piercing tone. My point is that, unless the police patrol with a snowmobile themselves, they will never be able to enforce having snowmobilers stick to the marked route. My understanding is that part of snowmobiling culture is to drive from bar to bar. I hope this is not just about allowing such folks to drive in from south of town to go to a bar. One of my worries is that we'll have snowmobiles on top of the dyke late at night having loud conversations and incidentally shining their lights into my second story bedroom window. That's already happened once and I worry that if there are any drunk snowmobilers around it will happen again.	11/12/2022 3:29 PM
24	My biggest concern about all this is how the trails are accessed. Very concerned that snowmobiles from neighborhoods near the greenway will drive through neighborhoods and on boulevards and private property to get there. I live about a block from greenway on GF side. It is NOT ok to drive a snowmobile or my sidewalks and lot to get there. This causes big mess and is very discourteous	11/12/2022 12:06 PM

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25	What has happened in our neighborhood is people drive their snowmobiles from their homes, down Belmont Rd--up 8th Avenue--to get to Lincoln Park and the river. This has set me against all snowmobilers using any paths in Lincoln Park. The noise is one issue. Cross country skiing is a quiet activity. The Snowmobilers will ruin that.	11/12/2022 10:48 AM
26	Trail proposal looks good to me. I'm an avid mountain biker and trail runner and use the Greenway. I would have no problem using the Greenway trails and also have snowmobiling going on too. More people using the Greenway, the better.	11/12/2022 9:58 AM
27	Should be shut down the same time as the park hours. Noise ban after 9	11/12/2022 8:50 AM
28	I am a bird watcher who occasionally travels from Fargo to walk the Greenway trails and view birds, especially owls, in the winter months. This proposed snowmobile trail will absolutely destroy the peace and quiet of the entire river valley, making winter bird watching unpleasant or impossible. The proposed route cuts directly through habitat used by winter resident and/or migratory Northern Saw-whet Owls, and within a quarter-mile of the only known location where this owl has nested in Grand Forks County. The trail also crosses through habitat used by the rare Boreal Owl during migration, and passes within approximately 50 feet of the spot where the last Boreal Owl was seen along the Greenway in 2020 (I traveled to see it), sightings which only happen about once per decade. The same earthen dikes and flood walls that insulate the Greenway from much of the city's noise and make it so peaceful, will serve to amplify and echo the howl of snowmobiles as they zip up and down the Greenway (15 MPH speed limit? Yah, sure! They will be going twice that speed or more on the straightaways, with little danger of being caught and minimal consequences if they are -- and we all know it). The cross-country skiers that love the peaceful trails will also abandon the area outright; NO ONE who likes winter skiing in quiet riparian woodlands and fields will choose to do it alongside a snowmobile trail in an engine-noise-filled river valley. The only way you could make this proposal LESS appealing is to lay a runway for jet aircraft alongside the trail. Your Greenway is a gem! Don't ruin it by adding a trail/racetrack for rich people's motorized toys at the expense of most other winter users.	11/11/2022 11:08 PM
29	This morning, after our first significant snowfall of the year, I saw an idiot on a snowmobile along Belmont going on and over the sled hill. There is already blatant disregard for the law and this proposal will only make it worse by inviting more snowmobiles to the area. I do not think these people will be content to stick to the trail and will instead be driving all over the greenway and up and over the dikes, putting people at risk, including skiers, walkers, and kids sledding. One day some jackass on a snowmobile will fly over the dike and hit someone. I've seen close calls when I lived along the dike in south Grand Forks.	11/11/2022 7:50 PM
30	Can't tell if the signage will be adequate from the maps. Previous experience suggests that snowmobiles will ignore all posted signs and do what they want.	11/11/2022 4:08 PM
31	This is a terrible idea, clearly lobbied for by a special interest group that is only concerned about their benefits and enjoyment without consideration of others who live nearby. Approval of a snowmobile route within the residential area of the Greenway in south grand forks will essentially authorize a snowmobile speedway through the backyards of several taxpaying Grand Forks residents. I remind you that the Greenway is used all winter by children as a sledding and recreational zone. I guarantee you that a child will be injured at some point should this new snowmobile route be approved. I have witnessed ABSOLUTELY ZERO policing of unauthorized motor vehicle/UTV and snowmobile operation on the Greenway on south Grand Forks in the 4 years that I have returned to town. What should I expect for appropriate behavior of snowmobile operators once you condone their operation of machines adjacent to my backyard in the future? Why don't you propose a route adjacent to Kings Walk and see what response you get? NAME REDACTED	11/11/2022 2:29 PM
32	It's too close to all pedestrian trails. How will the 25 mph limit be enforced. Presents way too much of a hazard to the users of which the Greenway is intended to host.	11/11/2022 1:16 PM
33	It's too close to both paved and trails used for skiing, walking, and cycling.	11/11/2022 1:08 PM
34	I like the idea of a snowmobile trail through the Greenway but am concerned with how it will be monitored and controlled. We already see/hear dirt bikes, ATVs, golf carts and snowmobiles being used in our neighborhood on the Greenway all of the time even though they're not supposed to. In fact, there were 2 snowmobiles out last night zipping around that clearly were NOT on the proposed trail near us as they were going up and down the dike. In areas, the proposed route is too close to paved trails as well as skiing/etc. trails. There are also hill areas near us where children in the neighborhood sled that would cross the proposed snowmobile	11/11/2022 10:25 AM

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trail. This is the case in other areas where children sled too, not just near our home. If snowmobilers ride like the 2 that were out last night, safety is a concern as I can see where not everyone is going to follow the rules and/or stay on the trail.

35	This will go right behind our house on the south end of town. I don't really want to listen to snowmobiles driving by my house. I can't imagine that the people supporting this would want that noise either. People already drive snowmobiles in that area anyway and it gets annoying.	11/11/2022 8:21 AM
36	This would be a disaster waiting to happen. Without the trail, we have had snowmobilers in our backyard every year. The snowmobiles are loud, disruptive and run at all hours. If you open this up as a "trail, " traffic will increase significantly. One of the reasons we purchased our home was because it was quiet and private. This trail would obviously result in noise and traffic. The proposed trail crosses Adams Drive, and there have been near accidents in the past, despite it NOT being a trail. Adams Dr. has an incline at the point of crossing, making it difficult to see oncoming snowmobilers. I have seen snowmobiles blow right across the road. I see injuries resulting if this moves through the committee. From observing the map, the path also appears too close to pedestrian trails. With snowmobiles traveling at rapid speeds, how is a pedestrian to safely get out of the way? Please, please do not let this pass!	11/10/2022 7:18 PM
37	I'm concerned that this trail goes to 62nd Ave. that goes right by our backyard and I'm very concerned about noise, particularly at night.	11/10/2022 6:24 PM
38	It is too close to the paved trails, too close to trails used for skiing, walking and cycling, and too close to homes. Folks who live near the Greenway are going to be bothered by the noise. The proposed snowmobile trail is too close to the paved trails, which are used by people walking during the winter. Even without this proposed trial, snowmobilers already (illegally) drive right on or right next to folks walking on the paved/plowed trail and right next to or on the trails groomed for skiing (ruining the groomed trail). Snowmobiles move too fast and don't slow down for walkers/skiers. It is dangerous.	11/10/2022 3:39 PM
39	Not only it is too close to trails used for skiing, walking and cycling, the proposed snowmobile path crosses it too many times to be safe. The old pathway for snowmobiles ran around town, requiring riders to slow, stop at road crossings. All this traffic plus more will now be shifted to the Greenway. People will be going full speed; it will be very busy. There will be injuries and access to injured for ambulances will be very cumbersome. Also, the path runs too close to residential areas, especially on the south end of town, and will result in an unacceptable level of noise. Snowmobiles belong to the country and that's where they should be kept.	11/10/2022 10:18 AM
40	Why would anyone think this is a good idea? Snowmobiles will be using the dike for jumps and thrills. How will this be enforced?	11/10/2022 8:16 AM
41	I am very much against having snowmobiles in these areas. It disturbs the peace and quiet. What I love about the greenway is how it's like a walk in nature with just the sound of falling snow and the breeze through the trees. The loud noise of snowmobiles would completely ruin this for so very many of us. PLEASE find another solution for snowmobile trails far far away so no disruptive sounds can be heard from the lovely greenway experience.	11/10/2022 8:15 AM
42	This is ridiculous. The greenway is the one area of Grand Forks that is free from the noise and stress of city life. Let's keep it that way.	11/10/2022 8:11 AM
43	My dog and I walk on the Greenway from Demers to Minnesota Ave (represented in the 1st map). I do believe that there is good signage to direct riders, but I do worry a little about it being too close to the paved path.	11/9/2022 2:49 PM
44	I don't think motorized vehicles should be on the Greenway at all. I can tell you a few things. 1) They will not respect any sort of quiet times, and will be tearing up and down the trail at fast speeds, waking up those who live on the Greenway at all times of the night/morning. 2) They will be tearing up the whole system as the snow melts, and they just don't care. I think this is a terrible idea and will fight it all winter long. Keep them out of the city, there is no need for these fast, loud machines in city limits. Who is going to enforce those that are drunk? Who is going to enforce those that are being irresponsible? It's not all of them, but there will be a few bad apples, and GF does not have snow mobile enforcement at all, which is going to make it the wild west.	11/9/2022 8:04 AM
45	You have absolutely no business along people with snowmobiles to go anywhere near the bike path. The bike path is used all year long. We have a nice problems with deer in our yard and I can only imagine how the snowmobilers are going to make those deer leave their natural	11/8/2022 3:04 PM

Snowmobile trail extension survey 2022

habitat and come up into our yards more. It's ridiculous. And the noise that will have to tolerate. If you don't live by the river, you have no idea what I'm talking about.

46	They well disturb deer and residences along the dike. Compromise give snowmobiles access to the river....	11/8/2022 2:12 PM
47	This a HORRIBLE idea. The greenway is one of the few silent sport areas in town. There ae so many places to ride sleds and almost no where that has groomed ski trails. In many areas it is so close to the paved trails it would force walkers on the ski trails (already an issue) . It is also inevitable that sleds would end up on the ski trails. I was hoping the Nordic system would be expanded but this is highly disappointing . Non of this even speaks to the noice pollution of the other trail users and the neighbors adjacent .	11/8/2022 8:25 AM
48	In many areas it is not only too close to the current groomed ski trail, it is on top of the current ski trail, or replacing it. This will create a dangerous situation for skiers when they encounter snowmobiles. In other areas it seems that the snowmobile trail guides snowmobiles to cross the asphalt bike trail due to the course it takes. This will most likely lead to damaging the asphalt bike trail. Specifically there is an area North of 32nd Ave South and South of the Lincoln golf course access point, near the tennis courts.	11/7/2022 4:59 PM
49	Multiple concerns: It's too close to the paved trails and ski trails in multiple locations. Too many crossings of existing trails. South end proposed path is on top the the dyke, putting in close proximity to property backyards in addition to causing more wear on the dyke. Is there enforcement of the path? Enforcement of speed limits?	11/7/2022 1:35 PM
50	There are places it seems too close to the ski/bike trail - others where it seems fine. I'm personally not too concerned with proximity to the paved trail.	11/7/2022 1:35 PM
51	It's too close and the noise will be very annoying to the affected neighborhoods and specially to the other trails and people living by the dikes.	11/7/2022 10:50 AM
52	This is a terrible idea for the city and worse for the residents near the dike. How inconsiderate. My neighbors and I resent people who WALK on the dike, which was supposed to be forbidden. It's problem enough, as walkers are in our backyards, upsetting our dogs, having a view into our homes. The idea of an additional imposition of a snowmobile trail is outrageous!	11/6/2022 12:48 PM
53	The past snowmobile route has been on the (frozen) Red River in Grand Forks city limits of which the city has made us quite aware with postcard notices. - It would be reasonable a snowmobile land route be kept on the lower level as near the river as possible. That location would be particularly relevant in residential areas. As a resident adjacent to the dike I do not want that traffic so near my home (Elmwood to 47th section) for reasons of privacy, peaceful enjoyment of my property and safety. - The proposed route in some sections runs adjacent and in close proximity to the walking/ skiing paths, some places appear to be on the paved path. Consideration should be given of damage to blacktop surfaced paths from snowmobile use. - In recent years when ordinances prohibited snowmobile use on the Greenway, there have been several instances of snowmobile traffic in this area on the sides, up and over the dike, day and night. Some riders have exhibited a disregard for pedestrians right of way by closeness and speed. All have demonstrated a disregard for the law just by being there. I have also observed non-city owned vehicles, mini-bikes, ATVs and golf carts driving on the Greenway and the dike. - With the prevalence of deer and wildlife in the area there is a likelihood of incidents involving them. - Ordinances can be drafted, signs put up, notices sent and requests to report incidents but there is little respect for law that isn't enforced. There would be riders that comply conscientiously. However there are those who given this opportunity would abuse it.	11/6/2022 12:40 PM
54	This trail is long overdue. There is currently not enough access to trails in the area. This is what the Greenway should provide.	11/4/2022 8:29 PM
55	I live in the map #4 area. The dyke/greenway is right out my backyard. The proposed snowmobile trail would be between the bike path and riverbank which isn't very much room at that point. I think that is too close in that area and the noise would be very loud especially at night and wee hrs of the morning! In the past there have been many snowmobiles traveling back there and many were speeding on top of the dyke waking me up! I can forsee much more traffic on top of the dyke and not staying on the path. That is a huge concern with the noise and speed and the possible danger of an accident that could happen near or on my property! Also am very concerned about the safety of walking on the bike path with my dogs with speeding snowmobiles so close. I have seen snowmobiles traveling there when they are not supposed to be there and they do not slow down! Please keep the trails away from close	11/4/2022 12:07 PM

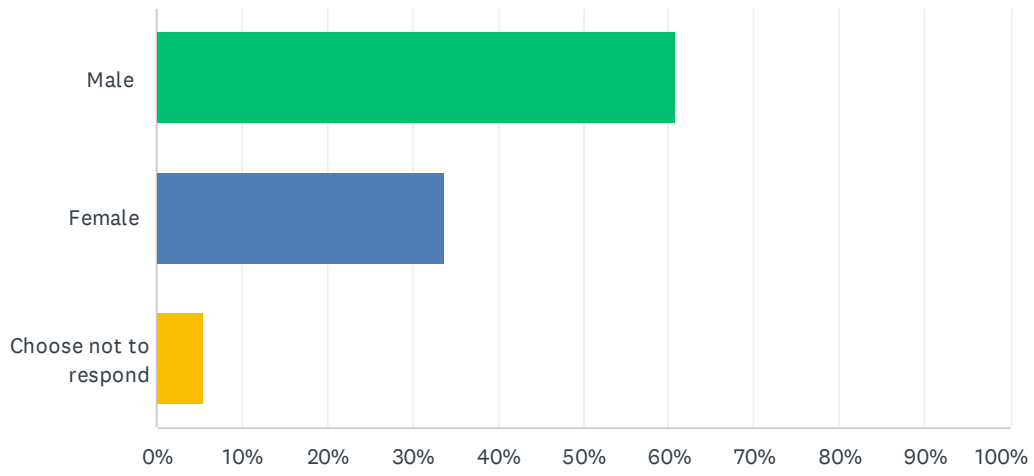
Snowmobile trail extension survey 2022

residences and walking paths! Please have speed limits and rules and safety patrols to regulate the traffic! There should be fines for traveling off the trails and on top of the dyke! I specifically live in this area of town because it is quiet! Lets keep it that Way!!

56	The frequent crossings of snowmobile trails and groomed trails for skiers will require additional maintenance and will lead to a reduced quality of trails for skiers. The snowmobiles on the paved trail may damage the existing paths with their treads. Who is going to be responsible for fixing the damaged paths? and how long will repairs take these paths out of service? The south end of the proposed snowmobile route is on the levy, I thought no vehicles were allowed to be on the levy. Why are snowmobiles getting special treatment? I do not think it is a good idea to intermingle snowmobiles and non motorized traffic. This could lead to serious accidents between the two.	11/4/2022 11:33 AM
57	It will create too much noise. They should stick to the current route	11/4/2022 11:12 AM
58	There's already plenty of people who use the Greenway illegally. And safety/speed isn't on their agenda. This is a big state with plenty of open space why do they need to ride in town. Most people use the Greenway to get away from the noise of everyday life. It's serene. Another thing the police don't give speeding tickets/sign violations unless there's an accident because they're busy with other more serious things. What's a snowmobile cost nowadays and cop's wages to patrol. Ask anyone they'll tell you that taxes are out of control	11/4/2022 10:15 AM
59	I think the more we can get people outside, the better. This proposed trail crosses the ski trail in numerous areas. We do already in prior years have some issue with snowmobiles on the ski trail. I don't think we have had much issue with snowmobiles on the paved trail. I am out there most days and have not had significant issues with it, but if the snowmobile and ski trails are not very clearly marked, we are going to have snowmobiles on the ski trail not just creating undesirable tracks for skiers, walkers, cyclists, but there will be safety issues. It appears that the snowmobile trail is marked for nighttime, which is when the biggest safety hazard will likely be presented, but i don't know that all of the places where it crosses the ski trail are very well marked or delineated. Nor do i know that it is very well marked where the tracks are parallel and close to each other.	11/3/2022 5:19 PM
60	As someone who lives near the Greenway and works downtown so walks the Greenway more than twice a day somedays, this is scary to me. I enjoy the peace and quiet of non motorized vehicles. There are WAY to many "shared" crossings here, and i can tell you that a human versus snowmobile isn't going to end well. I don't know how this isn't a safety issue. The damage they can do to an area that has come so far in 20 years is also something i dont think is being considered. The likelihood they will remain on this trail is also in question. The greenway serves a purpose for this City.	11/3/2022 4:46 PM
61	This is a ridiculous idea. Look at how many crossings you have. Do we really think the snowmobiling crowd is going to be aware of each of these crossings and actually slow down for them? I think we all know the answer to that. This is just an accident waiting to happen. There shouldn't be a snowmobile trail within the City. Fargo doesn't allow it. Bismarck doesn't allow it. I'm sure all of the residents along the route are going to love listening to the sound of snowmobile engines rip down the Greenway at Mach 4. There are so many reasons not to do this. Send them all around town. There is no reason they need to use one of Grand Fork's most prized natural areas as their race track. This shouldn't even be a discussion.	11/3/2022 4:41 PM
62	-The new route should include adequate signage. -It is close to and crossing other trails - this is probably unavoidable, but steps should be taken to control these areas and prevent collisions. -I'm sure some houses will complain about noise, not sure where would be better. - Good job!	11/3/2022 4:30 PM

Q4 Tell us a little about yourself.

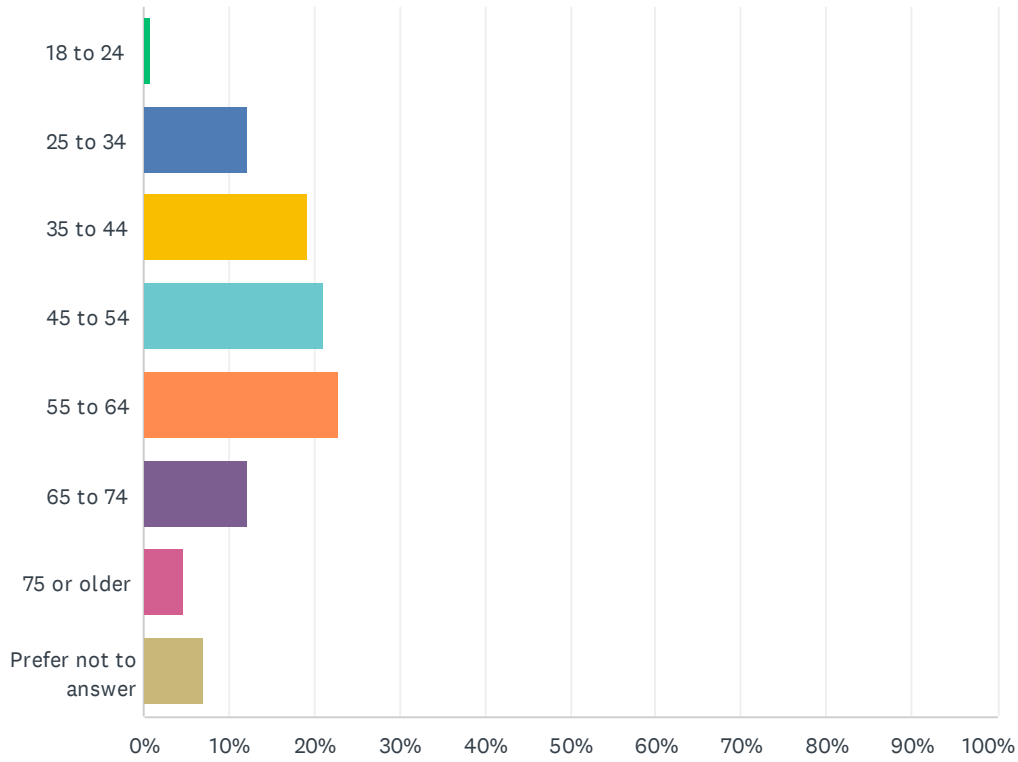
Answered: 214 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	60.75%	130
Female	33.64%	72
Choose not to respond	5.61%	12
TOTAL		214

Q5 What is your age?

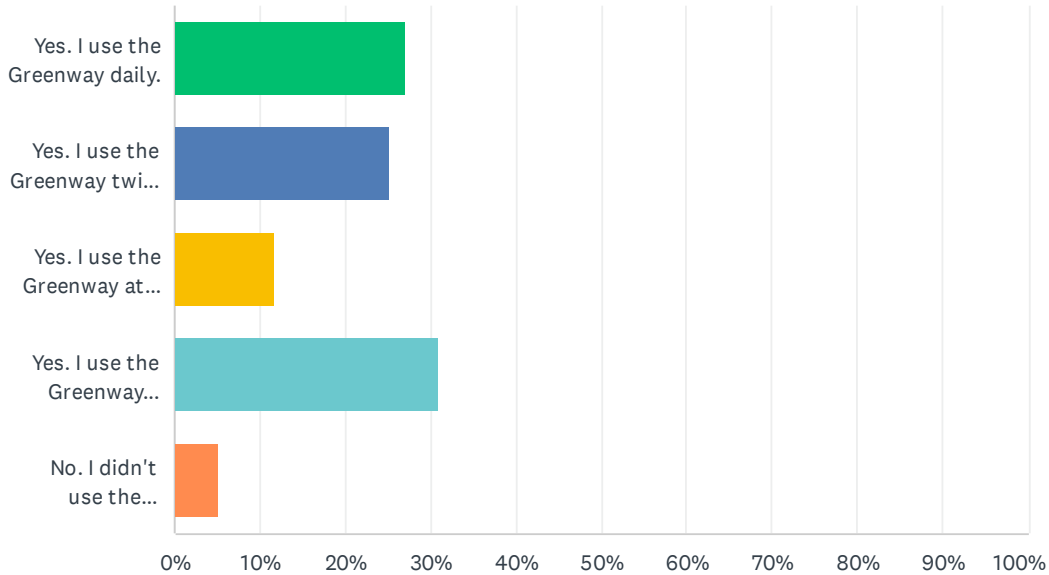
Answered: 214 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
18 to 24	0.93% 2
25 to 34	12.15% 26
35 to 44	19.16% 41
45 to 54	21.03% 45
55 to 64	22.90% 49
65 to 74	12.15% 26
75 or older	4.67% 10
Prefer not to answer	7.01% 15
TOTAL	214

Q6 Do you visit the Greenway often? In Grand Forks, the Greenway is defined as the area from approximately fifty (50) feet north of the centerline of the north pedestrian bridge, north of Riverside Dam, to the centerline of the south end drainway. (GF city ordinance 14-0219)

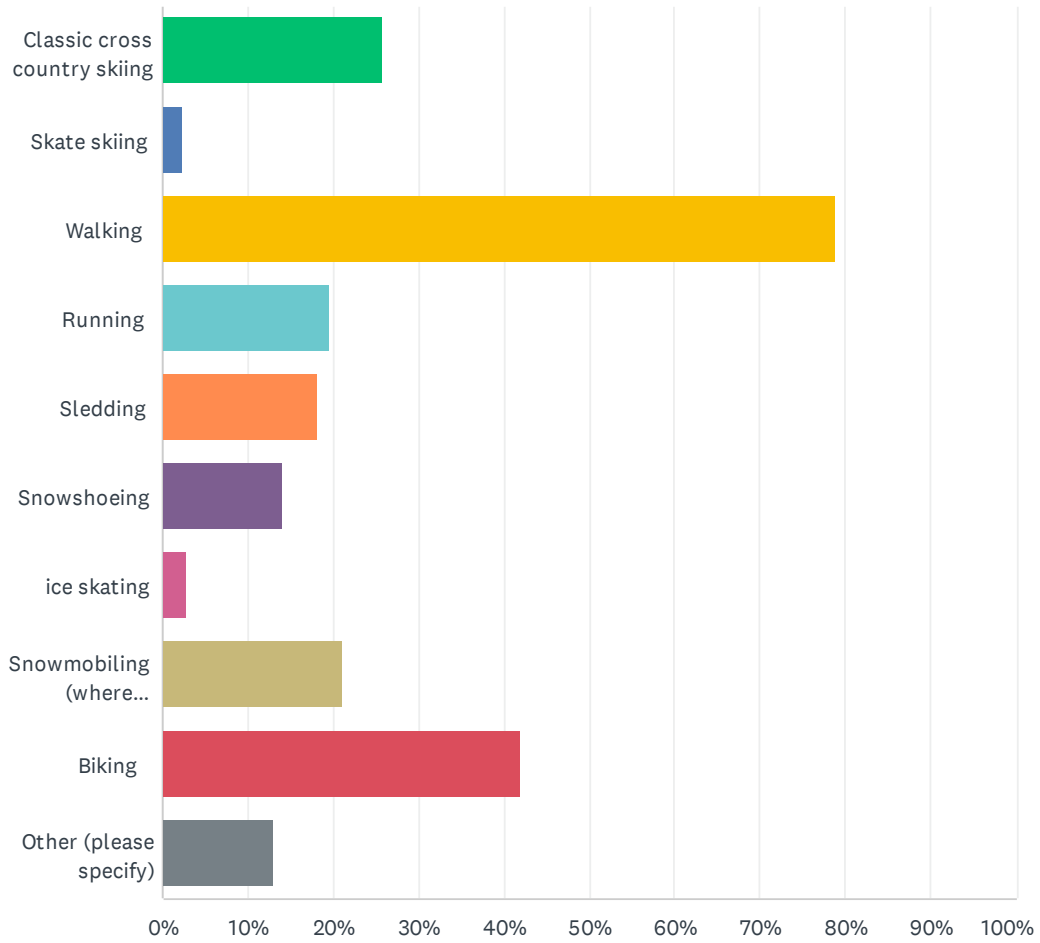
Answered: 214 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes. I use the Greenway daily.	27.10%	58
Yes. I use the Greenway twice or more per week.	25.23%	54
Yes. I use the Greenway at least once a week.	11.68%	25
Yes. I use the Greenway several times a month.	30.84%	66
No. I didn't use the Greenway.	5.14%	11
TOTAL		214

Q7 What is your favorite activity when visiting the Greenway during the winter? Choose as many as apply.

Answered: 214 Skipped: 0



Snowmobile trail extension survey 2022

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Classic cross country skiing	25.70%	55
Skate skiing	2.34%	5
Walking	78.97%	169
Running	19.63%	42
Sledding	18.22%	39
Snowshoeing	14.02%	30
ice skating	2.80%	6
Snowmobiling (where permitted)	21.03%	45
Biking	42.06%	90
Other (please specify)	13.08%	28
Total Respondents: 214		

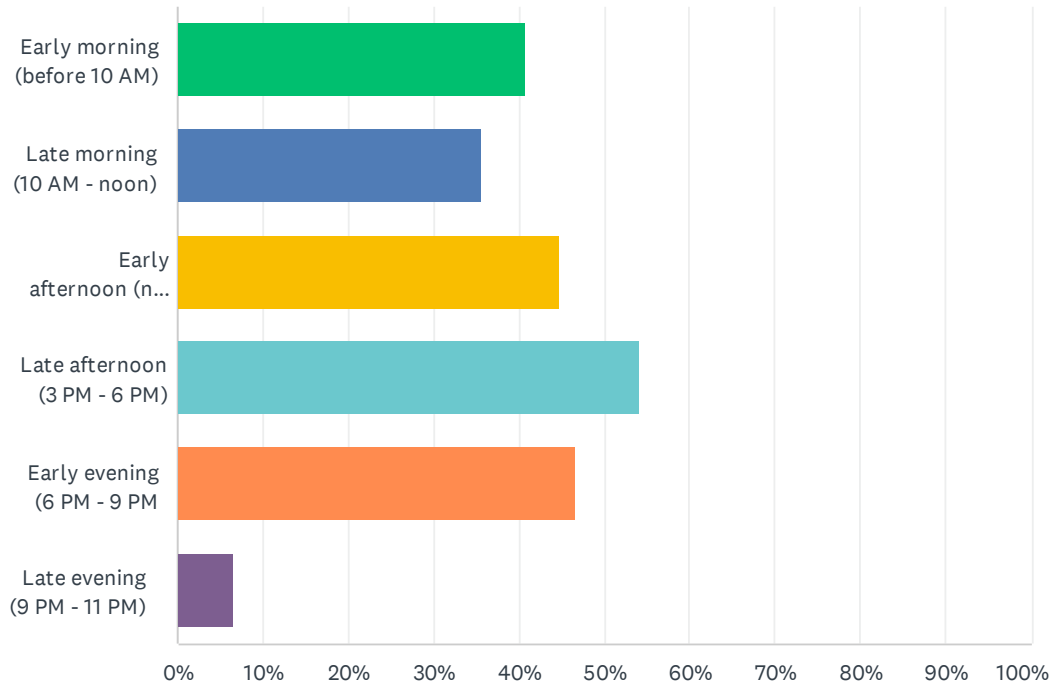
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Birdwatching, wildlife viewing, photography	11/16/2022 2:08 PM
2	I 100% support a snowmobile trail on the greenway. My house is right against the dike in riverside park. There isn't a difference in noise from a sled on the river vs on the greenway so dont let people try tell you otherwise. Its safer to keep people off the river as well.	11/15/2022 10:02 PM
3	Birding	11/15/2022 7:29 PM
4	Birding, observing wildlife.	11/15/2022 2:49 PM
5	Bird watching	11/15/2022 2:14 PM
6	Observing nature	11/15/2022 10:03 AM
7	dogs	11/15/2022 9:52 AM
8	Occasionally spend time on the Greenway downtown.	11/14/2022 3:11 PM
9	viewing nature, i.e. birds and animals	11/14/2022 11:11 AM
10	Bike all winter as well	11/14/2022 6:11 AM
11	Birding and photography	11/13/2022 7:38 PM
12	Rollerblading with kids	11/13/2022 2:27 PM
13	Rollerblading	11/12/2022 2:41 PM
14	Birding	11/12/2022 1:20 PM
15	Dog walking	11/12/2022 10:48 AM
16	Walking the dogs	11/12/2022 9:25 AM
17	Birding and snowmobiles this close would be extremely disruptive	11/12/2022 8:16 AM
18	Winter bird watching, especially for owls.	11/11/2022 11:08 PM
19	CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK	11/11/2022 5:55 PM
20	Exercising the dog	11/10/2022 10:18 AM
21	Walking my dog	11/10/2022 8:15 AM

Snowmobile trail extension survey 2022

22	I plan on using more, walks, fat tire bike, maybe purchase a snowmobile	11/9/2022 3:58 PM
23	Would love to be able to snowmobile	11/9/2022 12:10 PM
24	Oberserving wildlife	11/8/2022 2:12 PM
25	Dog walking	11/7/2022 9:38 PM
26	Ice Fishing	11/7/2022 4:51 PM
27	Dog walking	11/6/2022 12:40 PM
28	I mainly use it for walking my dog. I have used it a couple times for mushing or skjoring.	11/3/2022 4:30 PM

Q8 When is your favorite time of day to visit the Greenway? Select all that apply.

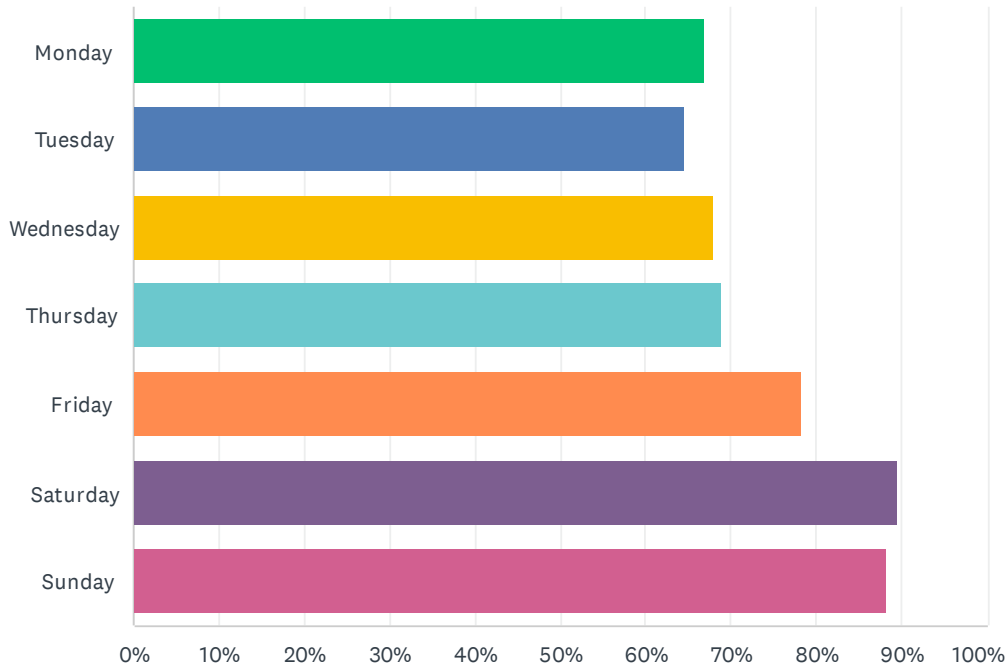
Answered: 214 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Early morning (before 10 AM)	40.65%	87
Late morning (10 AM - noon)	35.51%	76
Early afternoon (noon - 3 PM)	44.86%	96
Late afternoon (3 PM - 6 PM)	54.21%	116
Early evening (6 PM - 9 PM)	46.73%	100
Late evening (9 PM - 11 PM)	6.54%	14
Total Respondents: 214		

Q9 What days of the week do you prefer to visit the Greenway? Select all that apply.

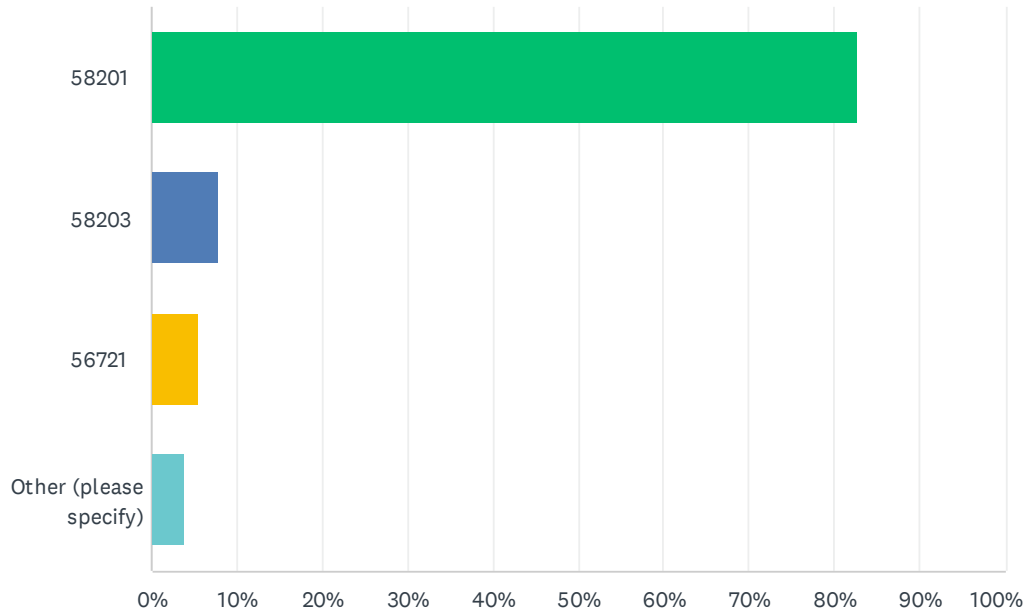
Answered: 212 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Monday	66.98%	142
Tuesday	64.62%	137
Wednesday	67.92%	144
Thursday	68.87%	146
Friday	78.30%	166
Saturday	89.62%	190
Sunday	88.21%	187
Total Respondents: 212		

Q10 What is your zip code?

Answered: 213 Skipped: 1

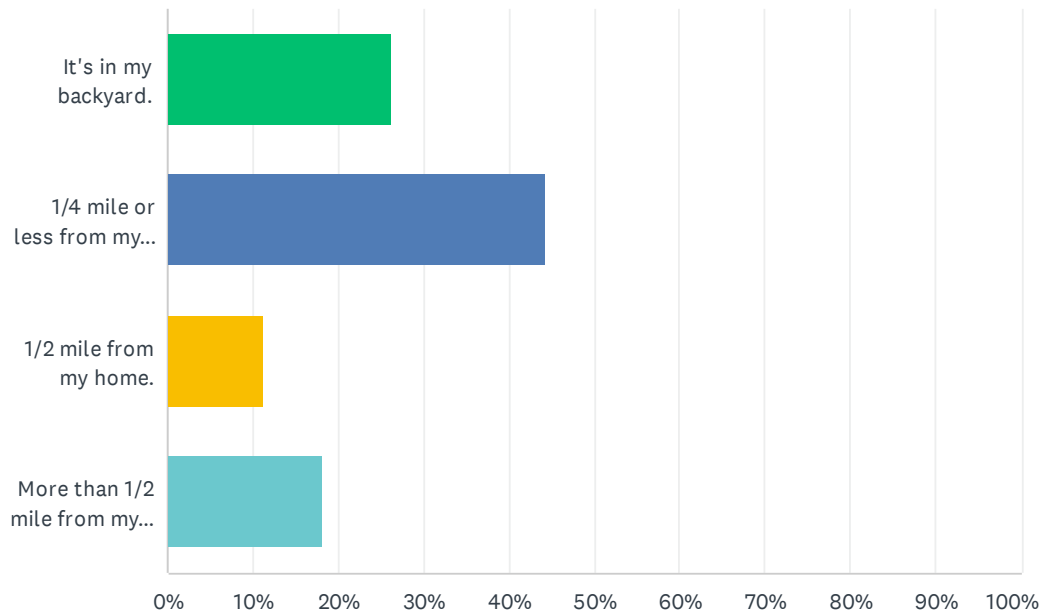


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
58201	82.63% 176
58203	7.98% 17
56721	5.63% 12
Other (please specify)	3.76% 8
TOTAL	213

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	58267	11/15/2022 2:49 PM
2	58103	11/11/2022 11:08 PM
3	56722	11/4/2022 4:46 PM
4	56744	11/4/2022 2:35 PM
5	56744	11/4/2022 2:33 PM
6	56716	11/3/2022 3:44 PM
7	56757	11/3/2022 3:42 PM
8	58265	11/3/2022 3:38 PM

Q11 How close do you live to the Greenway?

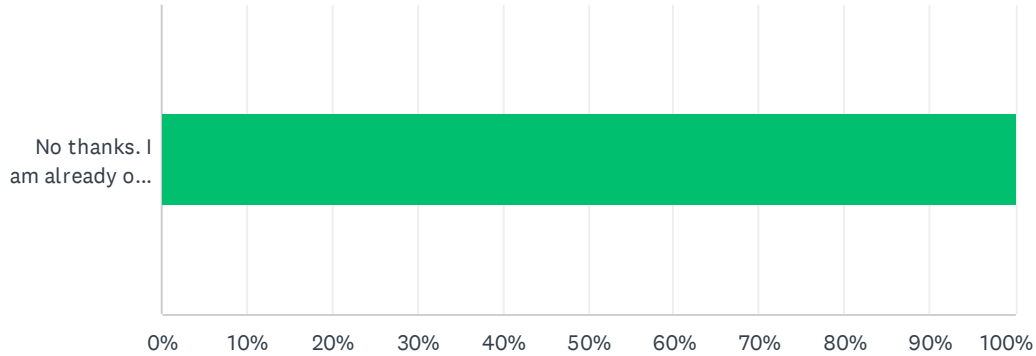
Answered: 214 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
It's in my backyard.	26.17%	56
1/4 mile or less from my home.	44.39%	95
1/2 mile from my home.	11.21%	24
More than 1/2 mile from my home.	18.22%	39
TOTAL		214

Q12 Would you like to receive regular updates about upcoming greenway events and activities?

Answered: 214 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
No thanks. I am already on the list.	100.00% 214
TOTAL	214

#	YES (PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS)	DATE
1	REDACTED	11/16/2022 2:08 PM
2	REDACTED	11/16/2022 10:18 AM
3	REDACTED	11/16/2022 9:33 AM
4	REDACTED	11/15/2022 2:49 PM
5	REDACTED	11/14/2022 7:09 PM
6	REDACTED	11/14/2022 1:21 PM
7	REDACTED	11/13/2022 9:17 PM
8	REDACTED	11/13/2022 3:33 PM
9	REDACTED	11/13/2022 10:54 AM
10	REDACTED	11/12/2022 3:29 PM
11	REDACTED	11/12/2022 2:41 PM
12	REDACTED	11/12/2022 12:06 PM
13	REDACTED	11/12/2022 10:58 AM
14	REDACTED	11/12/2022 9:58 AM
15	REDACTED	11/12/2022 9:25 AM
16	REDACTED	11/11/2022 7:53 PM
17	REDACTED	11/11/2022 5:55 PM
18	REDACTED	11/11/2022 5:06 PM
19	REDACTED	11/10/2022 7:18 PM

Snowmobile trail extension survey 2022

20	REDACTED	11/10/2022 3:44 PM
21	REDACTED	11/10/2022 10:18 AM
22	REDACTED	11/9/2022 4:02 PM
23	REDACTED	11/9/2022 3:58 PM
24	REDACTED	11/9/2022 2:49 PM
25	REDACTED	11/9/2022 12:10 PM
26	REDACTED	11/9/2022 10:33 AM
27	REDACTED	11/8/2022 2:12 PM
28	REDACTED	11/7/2022 11:08 PM
29	REDACTED	11/7/2022 6:22 PM
30	REDACTED	11/6/2022 12:48 PM
31	REDACTED	11/4/2022 4:46 PM
32	REDACTED	11/4/2022 12:07 PM

2022 Snowmobile Trail Extension Discussion
Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway Advisory Group meeting
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

It was noted at the beginning of the discussion that the lines on the map are not an exact representation of trail proximity. The width of the lines can distort distance between the trails.

Overview from Red River Snowmobile Club and GF Police Department representatives:

- This is not a done deal. Chief Nelson will review comments and make a decision by December 1.
- The current north to south route through Grand Forks is along 42nd Avenue. This is no longer feasible because of traffic and other development that make it dangerous to cross. Eliminating that route leaves no north-south route through the city.
- The Club would like the community to be like Duluth and Bemidji, MN, which welcome riders into the city.
- This request would provide a north-south trail through Grand Forks for riders from outside communities.
- All grooming is funded by club and would be done once a week.
- The Club will be starting to groom a trail from EGF to Alvarado this season.
- The Club offers educational classes for riders in ND.
- Riders are using the Greenway without trail. If we had a designated trail, they would stay in place and keep others safe.
- Club does not support a trail on the river. The previous city attorney has said that the city should not designate the river as a trail.
- Can we try something and pivot if it isn't working? The signs can be removed in the middle of the season if the Chief decides that the new route isn't working.
- The state snowmobile season starts December 1, but that doesn't mean that the trail is open. There must be enough snow for riders. The Chief would open the trail when there is enough snow.

Discussion

- Members of the club are clearly part of the "good" riders, but that isn't what is causing the problem.
- Will this make the problem better or increase the problem?
- How will this impact nearby residents if a snowmobile is on top of the levee or goes through their yard?

Enforcement

- Police haven't enforced before, how will that change? More patrol would be available on weekends.
- Concerns about speed limit and curfew enforcement.
- Club won't police the trail because of staffing. The police have limited money and staff to do enforcement.
- Cameras can be installed but they have limitations. The camera has to be in the right place at the right time while the snowmobile has to be at the right angle to get license and rider details.
- How can the speeds be curbed? Putting twists in trail could slow them down. Also hold police accountable for enforcement.
- People should not approach an offender but take a photo and send to police.

- Radar guns are used in Crookston. Will static radars on posts will make them go faster?
- No south EGF route but people will cross over on pedestrian bridge.
- It's mostly kids riding on the levees. How will this solve that problem?

Impact on other users and nearby residents

- What is the expected number of riders? Are we increasing the number of riders?
- How does this impact the wildlife habitat? Does it push them into the city and onto the streets?

2022 Snowmobile Trail Extension Discussion

Greenway Technical Committee meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Enforcement

- The fines in GF are too low. It's just a license to break the law.
- Consider increasing the fines with or without an extended route.
- Citizen reporting in the field is hard because the riders are going too fast to take photos of the snowmobile.
- Internal oversight from club help? Don't want to lose

Impact on wildlife

- The noise is disruptive to birds.

Motorized vehicles

- This request is not rewriting the rules because snowmobiles have always been allowed on designated trail. This is an extension of an existing trail.
- How does this open the discussion for ATV and UTV use?

Impact to EGF

- In EGF, snowmobiles are only allowed from north of the city limits, along the Red River to downtown. There are private owners on the south side of the Red Lake River south of south pedestrian bridge is privately owned and would require a lease for access.
- Snowmobiles are not allowed on the Red River State Recreation campground.

Education

- If approved, how do we education the public on how to report violations? Social media posts will not be enough.
- Social media posts should focus on reporting any violations or concerns without singling out any one user group.
- More signs on the trail on how to report violations would be needed.

New Form Entry: Contact Form

no-reply@weebly.com <no-reply@weebly.com>

Sat 11/12/2022 2:26 PM

To: greenway <greenway@grandforksgov.com>

You've just received a new submission to your [Contact Form](#).

[Mark as Spam](#)

Submitted Information:

Name

Email

Comment


Kim;

I tried to reach your online survey, but it wouldn't connect. There seemed to be an error. I think snowmobiles on the Greenway are a bad idea and unnecessary. Snowmobiles have the river bed and the east side that is fully open to them. I don't see how xc skiers and snowshoes will coexist on the common trails. Besides, the wildlife on the Greenway will be traumatized by snowmobile engines. I scare them enough just on my xc skis. The Greenway does belong to everyone, but snowmobilers can get off their butt and walk, ski or snowshoe if they want.

Opposed to snowmobiles on the Greenway

Tue 11/8/2022 3:35 PM

To: greenway <greenway@grandforksgov.com>

 4 attachments (9 MB)

IMG_20221108_145641.jpg; PXL_20221108_205212662.jpg; PXL_20221108_205037106.jpg; PXL_20221108_205503931.jpg;

I am absolutely opposed to letting snowmobiles go on the Greenway. The greenway is in my backyard. The noise would be terrible. If you can't control the ridiculous fast speeds on Belmont Road, which is another nightmare, how in the world are you going to control snowmobiles.

We have deer in our yard all the time. Attached are some pictures of this afternoon at 2:00. If snowmobiles are allowed to go on the Greenway, we're going to have more of a problem in our yards with deer. The snowmobiles are going to kick the deer out of their natural habitat, which is the only place they have to go for the winter.

If you don't live on the Greenway, you have no idea what it's like and shouldn't even have a say in this. There are plenty of other places for people to go snowmobiling. They do not need to go along the Greenway.

Belmont Road.

Photos from Resident on Belmont Road



New Form Entry: Contact Form

no-reply@weebly.com <no-reply@weebly.com>

Thu 11/10/2022 6:17 AM

To: greenway <greenway@grandforksgov.com>

You've just received a new submission to your [Contact Form](#).

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Submitted Information:

Name

Email

Comment

The survey site for snowmobile trail extension to greenway is not working. But I will say right here - it's a very bad idea. All snowmobile traffic will be directed to greenway, nobody will use street trails. Ski trails will always be ruined. Noise will be unbearable. Access to injured snowmobiles will be very limited. Do not allow this to happen.

To: Greenway Technical Committee

From:

Date: 13 November 2022

Extension of the snowmobile trail in GFK from DeMers Ave. to 62nd is a **BAD** idea for several reasons:

1. Safety of Other Users. The claim given by the RRV Snowmobilers Club in the GFK Herald that the Greenway in winter is unused is not substantiated by the facts. Over the years, I have walked the Greenway many times during the winter. If anything, I think Greenway usage has increased during winter. There are several users of the Greenway besides just cross-country skiers. There are winter-time dog walkers, trail bicyclists with winterized bicycles, bird watchers, and most vulnerable of all, families and children sledding down the dike (e.g., 47th Street access). There are very few areas in GFK for families that want to go sledding -- unlike snowmobilers who have many areas available for their sport. The risk of having a pet, adult, or child injured or killed by a snowmobile is not worth the money that the RRV Snowmobile Club promises to pay for trail upkeep.
2. Noise Level. In the Grand Forks City Code; Chapter X, Article 5 (Noise Control), the limiting noise level for a residential zone is set at 55 decibels (see Table III). A typical 4-stroke snowmobile running at 20mph produces between 64 to 68 decibels (<https://www.soneticscorp.com/noise-levels-and-the-threat-of-hearing-loss/>), which exceeds allowable limits. The GFK City Code explicitly states that
 - a. Excessive sound and vibration are a serious hazard to the public health and welfare, safety, and **quality of life**.
 - b. A substantial body of science and technology exists by which excessive sound and vibration may be substantially abated.
 - c. The people have a right to and should be ensured environment free from excessive noise and vibration that may jeopardize their health or welfare or safety or **degrade the quality of life**.
 - d. It is therefore the policy of the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, to prevent excessive sound and vibration which may jeopardize the health and welfare or safety of its citizens or degrade the quality of life.

If snowmobiles are allowed on the Greenway, it is almost certain the number of neighbors or trail users that experience a degradation in their quality of life due to noise pollution will be greater than the number of snowmobilers that create the noise pollution.

3. Rogue players. Once it becomes common knowledge throughout our region that the GFK Greenway is open for motorized vehicles, it is hard to imagine that usage will be restricted to only the RRV Snowmobile Club. No, the Greenway will be open to anyone that has a snowmobile. It is naïve to think that volunteers will enforce a 15 mph speed limit during the winter, as the RRV Snowmobile Club claims. Who are these volunteers? How will they enforce the speed limit (e.g., high-speed chases to apprehend offenders?) What will the penalties will be? Will these volunteers also apprehend drunk drivers?

In short, motorized vehicles (e.g., snowmobiles, dirt bikes, or ATVs) have no place in an urbanized green space such as the Greenway where pedestrian use occurs year-round. There are many other options that motorized vehicles can use other than the Greenway.