

Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) STAFF
10:30AM - Tuesday, December 20, 2016
Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Park District

Meeting Notes

Bill Palmiscino, Chairperson
Sgt. Doug Wright, GF Police
Tim Williamson, MN DNR
David Kuharenko, GF Engineering

Jairo Viafara, MPO
Reid Huttunen, EGF Parks & Rec
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

I. Old Business

A. River Access Master Plan

- Adopting the Plan will give both cities more leverage when applying for funding for river projects. Kim will work on finalizing the plan. The Plan will be ready to be adopted by both City Councils in early 2017.

B. Deer population update

- The East Grand Forks (EGF) City Council discussed the issue of deer leaving the Greenway and wandering through East Grand Forks.
- Councilman Grassel is concerned about the safety of the deer and residents.
- The EGF city administrator is researching how other communities handle deer within the city limits.

II. New Business

A. 2016 yearend report

- Approved with minor changes. Kim will post on the Greenway website this week.

B. Cross-country ski grooming

- The contractor is ready to start grooming as soon as there is enough snow.

C. 2017 meeting schedule

- For information only.

D. 2017 Greenway promotional fund invoices – Kim

- The 2017 invoices will be sent in January.
- Fund balance is \$2,322.50. There is a pending invoice for \$921 to the UND Visitor Guide.

E. Chairperson position

- Bill's term expires February 2018

III. Greenway, Bicycle & Pedestrian Group update: None

IV. Agency Updates

- A. City of EGF:** No ski trails will be groomed this year. Reid would like to consider a fat bike snow trail in the campground. Kim will provide him with contacts for the local group.
- B. GF Park District:** The outdoor rinks will open tomorrow. Plans are shaping up to move the skate park to an area north of Kannowski Park and south of the Point Bridge on the dry side of the flood protection project. Two neighbors had objections during the neighborhood meeting.
- C. City of GF:** None
- D. Minnesota DNR:** The 50th anniversary of the Red Lake River Water Trail is in 2017.
- E. MPO:** Jairo is working with a committee to update on the Bicycle & Pedestrian portion of the Transportation Plan. Some comments have been received regarding the Greenway. Jairo will send these comments to Kim for review by the Greenway Technical Committee.

V. Other

A. 20th Anniversary of flood.

- Are there any plans to mark the 20th anniversary of the flood? Kim will check with the GF Public Information Office.

VI. Next meeting: Greenway Technical Committee: 10:30AM on Tuesday, January 17, 2016, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Room

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway specialist

Supporting documents: DRAFT River Access Master Plan dated 10/11/2016
2017 meeting dates schedule
Promotional fund ledger
DRAFT 2016 yearend Greenway report

River Access Master Plan for the Red & Red Lake Rivers



2016

Cities of Grand Forks, ND and East Grand Forks, MN

A guide for developing river access within the Greater Grand Forks city limits.

DRAFT 10/11/2016

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APPENDICES

- Entire Red Lake River Corridor Plan (25 pages) or just information for EGF?
- Maps of potential facilities
- Maps of existing sites?
- Map of entire river with existing and potential sites

River Access Master Plan for the Red & Red Lake Rivers

CITIES OF GRAND FORKS, ND AND EAST GRAND FORKS, MN

GREENWAY VISION STATEMENT

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

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to create a guide for developing river access within the city limits of Greater Grand Forks city. Increased river access benefits a wide variety of activities, including motorized and non-motorized watercraft, shorebank fishing, and nature watching.

This plan is not a binding document. It is meant to show potential river access development. Images used in this plan are conceptual to provide an understanding of the plan's direction. Specific projects will require review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. They may include detailed studies soil conditions, accessibility, cost and effect on flood control management.

“A water trail is a stretch of river or lake that is mapped and managed especially for canoeing, kayaking, boating and camping.”

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

BACKGROUND

The Red and Red Lake Rivers provide many important functions for the Greater Grand Forks community. Both rivers are natural resources that provide recreational opportunities for boating, fishing, and scenic enjoyment throughout the year. They also serve as the water supply for the Greater Grand Forks community.

Activities on the Red and Red Lake Rivers have fluctuated many times over the past 150 years. The rivers were used as a transportation link between Lake Winnipeg, Canada and the Mississippi River system as far back as 1850. Steamboats hauling supplies and passengers were a regular site along the river until the early 1900's. Swimming in the river was a popular activity until the early 1970's. The addition of two low head dams created dangerous conditions for most activities on the river. Several drownings in the Red River prompted many citizens to fear the river and turn their focus away from the river as a source of recreation. Both cities adopted ordinances prohibiting swimming in the river as a possible way to keep people out of the river. The low head dams were later replaced with rock rapid dams as part of the flood protection project but the swimming ban remains in effect.

The Red and Red Lake Rivers are susceptible to frequent flooding. The Red River flows north into Canada and eventually into Hudson Bay. Spring snow melt begins in the southern end of the river and forces water upstream to the still-frozen northern region, where melting and runoff have yet to begin. The relatively flat terrain of the surrounding area allows floodwater to spread across wide sections of land.

The flood of 1997 brought many changes to Greater Grand Forks. A record-breaking flood crest invaded both cities and forced most residents to evacuate, leaving behind their homes, businesses and community. Residents returned to a community dismantled by floodwaters. Their firm resolve to rebuild a better community included using the rivers as assets instead of liabilities.

This devastating event prompted the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to propose a permanent flood protection system. This system included a greenway, along the Red and Red Lake Rivers. This greenway provided the opportunity to capitalize on the aesthetic and recreational values of the rivers.

The Greenway offers public access to the Red and Red Lake Rivers within the city limits. This has renewed interest for more activities on the rivers. Requests for more river access and amenities continue to rise and people realize the advantages of an urban river. In 2014, the local non-profit group Ground UP Adventures opened a boathouse facility along the Red River in downtown Grand Forks. This project has been a catalyst for increased interest in river access and creating an urban water experience.

PARTICIPATION

The River Access Master Plan is the result of the discussions and cooperation of many agencies involved in the Greenway. Greenway Technical Committee provided oversight of the project. This committee serves as the primary mechanism for the four agencies managing the Greenway, as well as interested citizens, to discuss the management and development of the Greenway.

Citizen input was an important in development of this plan. Two public input meetings were held in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks to gather ideas for river access. A comment sheet was available online for anyone unable to attend the meetings. The draft plan was available for review online and during two public meetings.

CHALLENGES

The primary purpose of the Greenway is to serve as a floodplain. This designation affects the development of all recreational features within the Greenway. Any changes or additions to the Greenway require a review by local, state and federal agencies. These agencies consider how any addition to the Greenway will the impact water flow, impervious surfaces, the environment, maintenance and overall Greenway plan.

The varied slope and soil conditions along the rivers present a unique set of challenges for installing permanent features along the riverbank. The soil along the riverbanks is a Aquolls mixture of clay, black dirt and some sand. The water table tends to be at or near the surface for much of the year and drainage is poor. This high level of moisture produces a high plasticity in the clays. (Schwert 2003). Slumping occurs in many areas along the rivers and results in steep drop-offs that make river access difficult.

Funding for greenway amenities comes from a variety of sources. Residents and businesses in both communities pay a fee, designated for the Greenway, on their monthly utility bill. In Grand Forks these fees are used for the administration, maintenance and additions to the Greenway. In East Grand Forks these fees are used for trail maintenance. Funding opportunities are available through state recreation and natural resource agencies.

OTHER RIVER PLANS

The Red and Red Lake Rivers have been included in several regional river use plans. The list of known river plans that include the Red and/or Red Lake Rivers are the Minnesota State Parks and Trails Water Trail and the Red Lake River Corridor Plan.

EXISTING FACILITIES

- Four public access boat ramps for launching motorized boats. This includes two in Grand Forks and two in East Grand Forks. Non-motorized watercraft can also utilize these launches.
- One fishing platform along Red River, in the Red River State Recreation Area.
- One walk-up fishing site near River Heights Trail Head in East Grand Forks.
- At least six primitive or unofficial sites have been created by anglers. These sites are not maintained by either City.

POTENTIAL FACILITIES

Public input revealed several locations for possible river access (Appendices ---).

- 47th Avenue South, Grand Forks
- 62nd Avenue South and South 16th Street SE, Grand Forks
- Hartsville Coulee, East Grand Forks
- Lincoln golf clubhouse, Grand Forks
- Country Club, Grand Forks
- Eagles Point trail head, East Grand Forks
- Kannowski Park, Grand Forks
- Red Lake River dam, East Grand Forks

POTENTIAL ENHANCEMENTS

- Wash stations for cleaning off watercraft.
- Simple facilities to access the river, like box steps.
- Wood platforms, similar to the one in Red River State Recreation Area.



Wood platform at Red River State Recreation Area



Example of box steps

REFERENCES

A Geologist's Perspective on the Red River of the North: History, Geography, and Planning/Management Issues. Donald P. Schwert

Red Lake River Dam - East Grand Forks, MN



Site Details

- Example

Pluses

- Restrooms and parking available at Eagles Point
- Parking available at Red Lake River and downtown boat ramps
- Close to restaurants, sporting goods retailer and campground

Minuses

-

Kannowski Park - Grand Forks, ND



Site Details

- Located south of Minnesota Avenue and Point Bridge
- Residential area nearby

Pluses

- Parking and restrooms available at trail head

Minuses

- Destination signage needed
- Shorebank is muddy after rains and floods

Hartsville Coulee - East Grand Forks, MN



Site Details

-

Pluses

-

Minuses

-

Lincoln Drive Park - Grand Forks, ND



Site Details

- Located in destination park in heart of community
- Near residential area

Pluses

- Existing boat ramp
- Parking available at boat ramp and trail head
- Restrooms available at trail head

Minuses

- Any shorebank access would require some reshaping of the riverbank

Lincoln Golf clubhouse - Grand Forks, ND



Site Details

- Located near a 9-hole golf course

Pluses

- Ample parking available
- Restroom in clubhouse
- Riverbank is relatively flat

Minuses

- Slope from paved trail to river is steep and soil sloughing has been a problem
- Heavy tree cover between paved trail and river
- Access requires crossing the paved trail
- Distance from parking lot to site is approximately 400'
- Vehicle access after flooding or heavy rain makes maintenance difficult

47th Avenue - Grand Forks, ND



Site Details

- Residential area
- Water intake & outfall at the riverbank

Pluses

- Area is mowed near riverbank, making river easy to access
- Slope is steep from street to river

Minuses

- Limited street parking because of bike lanes on 47th Avenue South
- Have to walk over levee to access. **APPROXIMATE DISTANCE**

62nd Ave. So. & 16th Street SE - Grand Forks, ND



Site Details

- Wooded area located south of Grand Forks city limits
- Located on private property

Pluses

- ???????

Minuses

- Located on private property
- Parking only available along narrow dirt road
- Heavy vegetation

Country Club - Grand Forks, ND



Site Details

- Located south of Grand Forks city limits

Pluses

- ??????

Minuses

- Located on private property
- Parking only available along narrow dirt road
- Heavy vegetation

2017 Greenway & Related Meeting Dates

Greenway Technical Committee

***10:30AM Third Tuesday of the month**

Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Room

- January 17
- March 21
- May 16
- July 18
- September 19
- November 21

Greenway Technical Committee STAFF

***10:30AM Third Tuesday of the month**

Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Room

- February 21
- April 18
- June 21
- August 15
- October 17
- December 19

Greenway, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

***7PM Second Tuesday of the month**

Room A102 (downstairs), GF City Hall, 255 North 4th Street

- January 10
- February 14
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9
- June 13
- July 11
- August 8
- September 12
- October 10
- November 14
- December 12

GREENWAY PROMOTIONS ACCOUNT - MANAGING AGENCIES

Date	Item	Revenue	Expenditure	Balance
1/1/2014	STARTING BALANCE TRANSFERRED FROM			\$1,868.50
	GF PARK DISTRICT			
8/19/2014	DEPOSIT - GF Park District - 2014 dues	\$250.00		\$2,118.50
8/19/2014	DEPOSIT - City of EGF & MNDNR dues	\$500.00		\$2,618.50
8/19/2014	DEPOSIT - City of GF - 2014 dues **	\$250.00		\$2,868.50
8/19/2014	GGFCVB - 2015 visitor guide		-\$225.00	\$2,643.50
8/19/2014	Knight Printing - brochures		-\$1,585.00	\$1,058.50
11/1/2014	ND Tourism - brochure program		-\$250.00	\$808.50
12/1/2015	GGF CVB - refund for overpayment	\$135.00		\$943.50
1/23/2015	DEPOSIT - GF Park District - 2015 dues	\$350.00		\$1,293.50
1/23/2015	DEPOSIT - City of EGF & MNDNR dues	\$700.00		\$1,993.50
1/23/2015	DEPOSIT - City of GF - 2015 dues **	\$350.00		\$2,343.50
2/1/2015	Campus Publications - ad in UND guide		-\$921.00	\$1,422.50
11/1/2015	ND Tourism - brochure program		-\$250.00	\$1,172.50
3/1/2016	City of EGF & MN DNR	\$700.00		\$1,872.50
2/18/2016	GF PARK DISTRICT	\$350.00		\$2,222.50
3/1/2016	City of GF **	\$350.00		\$2,572.50
11/20/2016	ND Tourism - brochure program	-\$250.00		\$2,322.50
1/18/2017	Campus Publications - ad in UND guide		-\$921.00	\$1,401.50
				\$1,401.50
				\$1,401.50
	**Requires a transfer to account, when needed			

Greenway Annual Report of Activities and Achievements 2016

River access in downtown GF: Phase 2 of the river access project was completed in August. The project included regrading the riverbank near the dock site to provide a smoother slope and completing the 14 foot concrete trail between the existing trail and dock area. This trail features a gentle incline for walking to and from the dock. A stairway on one side of the trail provides an alternative route. Two concrete pilings in the riverbank provide anchoring to attach the support arm and gangway. Guy-wires attached to the anchors and several points on the dock give stability during strong winds.

The dock features a pivoting gangway, two launch slips for non-motorized watercraft and a dock area for fishing. A welcome sign near the entrance provides information about safe boating, proper water etiquette and funding recognition.

The boathouse was moved to its new home near the dock area. The non-profit group Ground Up Adventures will offer canoe, kayak and paddleboard rentals from this site in 2017

River Access Plan: The Greenway Technical Committee began developing a River Access Plan this fall. The purpose of the plan is to create a guide for developing river access within the city limits of Greater Grand Forks. Two public input meetings were held in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks to gather ideas for river access. A comment sheet was available online for anyone unable to attend the meetings. The draft plan was available for review online and during two public meetings. The final plan will be released in early 2017 and presented to both city councils for adoption.

Disc Golf: The Greenway Technical Committee hosted an online survey to reach out to the local disc golf players. Over 100 submissions were received. Information from the survey will be used to determine upgrades and changes to the disc golf system in Greater Grand Forks. An advisory group has been formed and will continue to meet throughout 2017.

Unpaved trail system: An Adopt-an-Unpaved Trail program was started this fall. The Northern Star Cycling has adopted a section of trail as part of this pilot project. The goal of the program is to clear away some of the vegetation along the unpaved trails to improve the user experience.

Riverside Pool: The pool was sandblasted and painted before the start of the season. Attendance numbers was lower than previous years. The reopening of Sherlock Pool in East Grand Forks may have affected attendance.

Sherlock Pool: The pool opened in early June after extensive renovations. Virtually the entire pool was renovated or rebuilt. The shower house was renovated and a new water slide, diving boards and climbing wall, and ADA chair lifts were added. The wading pool was renovated and a new mushroom fountain play feature was added. Over 10,531 non-season passes and almost 100 season passes were sold. These were each a 42% increase from 2016.

Trail installations and repairs: A trail overlay was done on the trail behind the VFW Arena in EGF. This new trail and overlay provides a smoother surface and a trail shortcut for users.

Pavement projects: A new parking lot was installed at the Lincoln Golf clubhouse this summer. The upper loop road (formerly Euclid Avenue) was also repaved this summer

Red River State Recreation Area/Sherlock Campground: It was another great season with 10,885 campsites rentals in Sherlock campground. Total nightly attendance was 26,669 happy campers.

The campground staff continues to offer special events for visitors and local residents. Participants can chose from a calendar offering of Archery in the Park, Geocaching 101 and a variety of nature programs. Astronomy in the park was added this year. Northern Sky Astronomical Society hosted the event, which was well attended. Let's Have a Parade was added to Most Patriotic Campsite contest on 4th of July. The campground was the site for the Pedal for a Purpose on June 25th.

The season came some challenges as well. Severe weather and threats of tornados forced the evacuation of the campground to EGF fire station three times. A storm with 60 mph winds & nickel size hail caused serve tree damage to campground & River Heights trailhead in late July.

Special Events

The Greenway is a great place to host events, both large and small. The list of annual events held in and near the Greenway continues to grow.

Frozen Feat 5 & 10k	Sertoma 4 th of July celebration
"Bikecicle" Bike Race	Altru YMCA Firecracker 5 & 10k
Ice Man Triathlon	Eastern ND Cross-country HS Invitational meets
Dewey Kvidt Duathlon	Movies in the Park
Grand Cities Art Fest	Chalk it Up!
Run for Your Buns	Dog Jog
Diva Dash	Weddings
END – WET	Frosty Bobber
END – BOB	Vintage Snowmobile Event
Family Adventure Race\ Cats Incredible	Greater Grand Forks Heart Walk
Rollin' on the River	Red Lake River Rendezvous Tour
Uff Da Mud Run	Pedal for a Purpose
Wild Hog marathon	Blue Moose Oktoberfest

New events for 2016 included Saturday yoga classes and Battle of the Borders fishing tournament.