

**Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) Staff meeting**  
**9 AM – Tuesday, February 15, 2022**  
**Icon Sports Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Meeting room**  
**Grand Forks, ND**  
**Meeting Notes**

Reid Huttunen, Chair  
George Hellyer, GF Park District  
Teri Kouba, MPO  
Troy Schroeder, NW Regional Development  
Commission

Larry Hagen, Turtle River State Park  
Sgt. Kris Brown, GF Police  
Chief Jeff Boushee, EGF Fire  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF  
Theresa Flitter, City of GF

**I. Old Business**

- A. 2021 report:** Reviewed the final report, which will be distributed via the greenway social media channels and posted online.
- B. Winter recreation update:** The heavy snow has been a challenge for staff to keep facilities open. Most of the public has been patient with delays in plowing and grooming.
- C. Greenway & Environment Fund:** Kim will arrange a meeting with the Community Foundation and Reid.

**II. New Business**

- A. Aerial photography:** George shared information about an aerial photography company that has done work for the GF Park District in the past. The service is free, and you pay for the prints.
- B. Guest invitation:** Kim will contact representatives from the Fargo Park District and Riverkeepers to attend a future meeting.

**III. Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway, Advisory Group update – no report**

**IV. Other**

- A. ND State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):** The ND Parks and Recreation is looking for input for the plan. This is an opportunity for public input on the outdoor recreational needs of the state. This document drives where grant dollars go during the funding cycle.
- B. Winter equipment at Riverside Park:** George would like to add skis, skates, and sleds for use at Riverside Park for 2022 – 2023 season. This would be funded through the account at the GGF Community Foundation.

**V. Agency updates**

- A. City of EGF:** East Grand Forks was awarded \$850,000 for improvements at LaFave Park, but the award needs to be approved by the legislature. Reid applied for \$1 million from ARPA program for the park.
- B. GF Park District:** Snow Day went well.
- C. City of GF:** Kim is working with the engineering department on an RFP to redesign or refurbish the greenway entrance on DeMers Avenue. A few of the decorative pieces

around the floodwall entrance are starting to show their age so this is a good time to consider updating the aesthetics of the area.

- D. Minnesota DNR:** The Red Lake River access map was distributed for comments. Any photos that might be useful for the map can be sent to Catherine. Dakota Science plans to plant a pollinator garden in the campground. The MN DNR is working on a birding checklist that focuses only on the MN side of the Red River.
- E. MPO:** The MPO is soliciting proposals for a consultant to work on the bicycle and pedestrian piece of the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Earl Haugen will retire at the end of this month and the search for a new director has started. The plan is to have a new director on board by early May.
- F. NW Regional Development Commission:** Troy is still working on connecting motorized trails in NW MN.
- G. GF Police:** The department is trying to hire more officers to lessen the load on staff, but it has been a slow process. Special events have been a challenge to staff when the roster is small.
- H. Turtle River State Park:** Steve is trying to hire staff but hasn't been getting any applications. Funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will be used to catch up on as many delayed maintenance items as possible. There are 38 projects on that list so not all projects will get done, but it's a start. Fighting the snow conditions has been a challenge this season. Most of the time it has been a case of too much, too often. Park attendance is down for the winter season.
- I. EGF Fire:** The city early warning system activation doesn't match the system in the state parks. Jeff has been working with the MN DNR to coordinate the warnings to make sure that campers are informed in a timely manner.

VI. **Next meeting date:** Greenway Technical Committee 9 AM Tuesday, March 15, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club meeting room.

Support documents: 2021 report - Final  
Greenway & Environment Fund overview



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Low river levels and the Pandemic dominated the regional news and affected the Greenway in many ways. Trail and park use continued to grow as people looked for ways to maintain social distance outdoors, while river access was challenging at times. The Greenway provided many opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors year-round.

## A new look



We'd love to say that everyone is a good park user, but unfortunately, that isn't always the case. The Greenway Technical Committee continues to look for ways to provide a positive experience for all greenway users. Sometimes it's by ordinance, and sometimes it's through public education campaigns.

### Time?

- The city of East Grand Forks adopted new ordinances to strengthen enforcement options.
- A social media campaign focused on unattended pet waste.

The Greenway has grown and evolved over the past 20+ years and so has our logo! The new design provides a modern take on the two features that best define The Greenway – the river and the surrounding park area.

- A ribbon of blue to symbolize the Red and Red Lake Rivers. (After all, if it weren't for the rivers, there would be no greenway!)
- The green ribbon symbolizes the park.
- Crisp, bold lettering reflects a modern, urban feel, while the new color scheme gives an energetic feel that stays true to the nature of the area.

The Greenway Technical Committee elected Reid Huttunen, EGF Parks & Recreation director, as the new chairperson. We extend our gratitude to past chairperson Bill Palmiscino and wish him well in retirement.



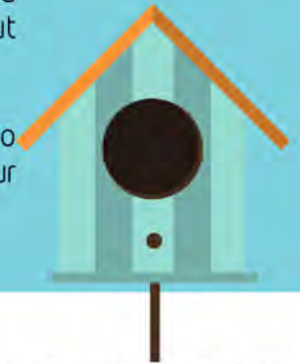
Boating on the Red River can be messy, but cleaning up after a day on the river just got easier thanks to the addition of a self-serve, waterless cleaning system. Many thanks to the ND Game & Fish Department for donating the new watercraft cleaning station at the John "Whopper" Little boat ramp near the Riverside Dam.

## campground news



After two years of delayed openings and early closings, the Red River State Recreation Area Sherlock Campground opened and closed on scheduled dates. Occupancy rates were steady, with 9,102 sites rented and an estimated 19,679 happy campers spent the night in Greater Grand Forks. Outdoor programming was canceled due to covid protocol but will return for the 2022 season.

And it's not just people who spent the night. The campground also hosted the first known nesting of American Kestrels and their four babies were hit with park visitors!



Volunteers make the difference, and we've got some of the best. When we put out the call for removing vines from trees, you answered the call! And we don't forget the volunteers that commit to keeping the trails clean through the Adopt-a-Trail program. Thanks to everyone who works to keep the Greenway a great community asset!

## Looking forward to 2022

**AT THE pool**  
Swimmers found some relief from the long, hot summer at the Riverside and Sherlock Parks pools. A shortage of lifeguards meant reduced hours but attendance was still high for year.

**Sherlock Pool:** Total attendance – 21,925 visitors. Average daily attendance – 300 people & a daily season high of 584 people!

**Riverside Pool:** Total attendance – 8,457 visitors. Average daily attendance – 300 people & a daily season high of 382

- Skate park phase 2
- Snowmobile trail reestablished in GF
- Trail overlay projects

The Greater MN Regional Parks & Trail Commission awarded \$851,768 in MN Legacy Funds toward \$1.26 Million in improvements to LaFave Park in East Grand Forks! Funds will help the City construct new boat access on the Red River and improve roads and parking lots in the park.

Unpaved bike maps coming

**Greenway & Environment Fund**

**formerly called the Friends of the Greenway Fund**

**Held at the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Region**

Established in 2002 with funds from the Knight Foundation. Established by Mike Maidenberg, former publisher of the GF Herald.

Mission: Annual distributions are used toward efforts to improve, benefit, or make use of publicly accessible green spaces and natural environment areas in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, with a priority placed on the Greenway.