

Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) Staff meeting
10 AM – Tuesday, February 20, 2024
Icon Sports Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Meeting room
Grand Forks, ND
Meeting Notes

Kim Greendahl, Committee Chair
Catherine Johnson, MN DNR
Steve Hell, GF Park District
Sgt. Kris Brown, GF Police Department
Tyler Manke, MPO

Steve Hell, GF Park District
Matt Arvig, GF Streets Department
Jeremy King, EGF Parks
Lori Martinez, City of GF
George Hellyer, GF Park District

I. Old Business

- A. New brochures update:** Kim is waiting to hear back from the artist and hoping they will be completed by the end of April and here in time for the Campground opening.
- B. Enhancement project near Desiree Drive and Rivers Edge update:** On January 16, the GF City Council approved moving forward on this project. KLJ Engineering will be working on a construction design for a new trail and enhancements at the fishing site. This will include adding height to the retaining wall for safety. Kim will submit grant applications for this project to the Garrison Conservancy District and the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Work will begin to clean out trees this summer and be funded from the Flood Protection Capital Fund account.
- C. Proposed improvement to area surrounding the floodwall on DeMers Avenue update:** The proposed improvements were presented to the GF City Council on February 12. The Council was supportive of the project and gave preliminary approval to move forward with the project. The final vote to approve the project will be on Tuesday, February 20.

There is a federal grant available through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program for possible funding. The grant is only for cities with a population over 30,000 and the project must be in an area designated as underserved through the Justice40 Program. The area south of DeMers Avenue on the downtown plan meets those criteria. This is a 1:1 match grant with a project minimum of \$600,000 a maximum of \$14 million. The pedestrian bridge is the largest component, and the City Council was in favor of the pedestrian bridge, but that's a project for down the road. Funds from the Flood Protection Capital Fund will be used for the city's portion of the expenses.

Phase I of the project will be the amenities south of DeMers Avenue and around the floodwall. This includes creating an adventure park, realigning the trails, removing the landscaping beds, and updating the entrance with new structures. There will be no changes made to the Town Square at this time. Some demolition will start in 2024 and the large pieces could start in 2025.

II. New Business

- A. Adopt a Trail Program:** Catherine has worked at the campground for 15 years and doesn't think anyone in the program has ever cleaned that section of the Greenway.

She asked if there is a limit on how long a group adopts a section or are the same groups that signed up in 2004? Catherine believes that the he City of East Grand Forks would not have any authority to enforce this program on DNR land, so this should be handled through the DNR.

The Grand Forks side does not have a time limit for taking part in the program. Every year, Kim sends a letter to the groups as a reminder and also requests that the group submit their hours and the number of people participating in the cleanup. This information is used for the stormwater permits held by the city. Kim will share this information with Jeremy for his records. Kim will send her files to Jeremy for his records.

III. Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway, Advisory Group update: Nothing to report.

IV. Other

- A. Homeless camps:** Kim was contacted by the Fargo Moorhead Metro Council of Governments this week about how Grand Forks is continuing to work on the homeless camps. Fargo and Moorhead are seeing an increase in homeless camps along the river. Some of those camps are getting big and they were wondering how homeless camps were handled in the Greenway.

A person was camping in a tent at one of the walk-in sites at the campground this winter, but they were out within 24 hours with no problems. There haven't been any other problems with homeless camps in the campground this winter. Sgt. Brown stated that the GF Police Department continues to monitor any homeless camp calls that come in.

In GF, Kim reports the location of any homeless camp to an email group of representatives from the GF Police, Northlands Rescue Mission, Spectra Health and a few other agencies that offer assistance. The GF Police Department also has a homeless liaison available.

V. Agency updates:

- A. EGF Parks:** The LaFave Park grant is on the City Council agenda for approval today. The project includes an updated boat ramp, additional parking in the kayak area, and a new picnic shelter. Most of the updates will be fishing-related. The new maps were picked up and will be installed in the kiosks this week.
- B. City of GF:** Justice40 Initiative is a program that provides funding for larger communities with underserved areas. After further discussion, East Grand Forks does not qualify due to the population. (The community must have at least 30,000 residents.)
- C. Minnesota DNR:** This will be the 20th anniversary of the State Park Recreation Area this season. A statewide open house is planned for June. Catherine hopes to initiate new campground programs this year. There are 4 spots in the campground with trees down. There are plenty of snowmobile tracks within the campground. The campground is receiving phone calls requesting reservations for the music fest in August and the reservations are not open at this time.

- D. City of GF Engineering:** A cleaning of the stormwater pond in Riverside Park will be in this Fall or Winter. The work will consist of cleaning out 6 inches of dirt and sediment from the bottom. Part of the Greenway will be closed during this time.
- E. Streets:** Nothing to report for the Greenway and the flood forecast is promising.
- F. MPO:** The bike map is currently being printed and should be done within two weeks. Tyler will look at revamping some of the safety information that is currently on brochure to clean it up a bit. Bolten & Menk has been selected as the consultants for the Garden Valley bike and pedestrian study.
- G. GF Park District:** There was a fundraiser held for renaming the Riverside tennis courts after Terry Paukert. The project raised over \$100,00 to reinvest in the tennis courts. The following will be added: a pad; porta potty; and landscaping. Hole 9 on the Lincoln golf course T box will be expanded.

VI. Next meeting date: Greenway Technical Committee 10 AM Tuesday, March 19, 2024, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club meeting room.

Support documents:

- Maps and drawings for project near Desiree Drive and Rivers Edge
- Downtown Gateway + Greenway Renovation Master Plan

Minutes Submitted by: Lori Martinez, Senior Administrative Specialist

Minutes Approved by: Kim Greendahl, Chair – City of GF Greenway





Greenway Trail - Fishing Area

Grand Forks, North Dakota
12-11-2023







Greenway Trail - Fishing Area

Grand Forks, North Dakota

12-11-2023



