

**Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) Staff meeting**  
**10 AM – Tuesday, February 21, 2023**  
**Icon Sports Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Meeting room**  
**Grand Forks, ND**  
**Meeting Notes**

Reid Huttunen, Committee chair  
Chad Cutshaw, GF Fire Dept.  
Matt Aarvig, GF Street Dept.  
Catherine Johnson, MN DNR

Steve Hell, GF Park District  
George Hellyer, GF Park District  
Jane Croeker, Bike, Ped & GW Advisory Group  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

**I. Old Business**

- A. Lighting policy approval:** The section on curfews needs clarification to address the lights in parking lots and restrooms. These lights remain on around the clock for security reasons. Kim will update the document and send it to the agency managers for approval.
- B. Snowmobile route extension request update:** Snowmobiles continue to be a topic of discussion in the community, especially on talk radio. There is a lot of misinformation circulating through the community. A resident has requested Kim's texts and emails from September to mid-December through the Freedom of Information Act. The purpose of the request is to determine what Kim's job is and whether she is meeting that expectation.

The City of Grand Forks has not taken any official action on the path forward yet. It is possible that the Greenway Technical Committee will be asked to serve as the umbrella for discussions.

Kim has talked to GF City Administer Todd Feland about the status of the discussion. The current plan is that the mayor and city council plan to work on a potential route this spring and summer. The goal is to work with a stakeholder group to review the issue and determine if something can be forwarded to the council for approval. The specifics of what that group will look like have yet to be determined. The MN DNR would like to be included in any discussions. The MN DNR regional director contacted the Red River Snowmobile Club this winter because the club had cleared a wider path than what was agreed upon, which resulted in the unauthorized removal of vegetation.

Jane recently counted at least 17 different snowmobile tracks south of Lincoln Golf Course, 19 in the downtown area, and 9 in the Riverside Park area. They have been riding all over the campground.

- C. Greenway map updates:** Kim will check-in with the designer this week.
- D. 2022 Annual report review:** Edits – replace photo near LaFave Park item to a local photo. The report will be shared via social media later this week.

## II. New Business

- A. **Promotional fund and invoices:** Kim will send invoices and a ledger for the funds to the managing agencies.
- B. **Committee name:** In a recent meeting with Kim and other city officials, GF City Attorney Dan Gaustad mentioned that the title “Committee” might be problematic. That meeting was not the proper time to address the matter, so Kim will reach out to Mr. Gaustad for clarification. She will update the Committee on any correspondence or recommendations on this item. The committee is okay with changing the name of the committee if that is necessary to clarify its role.

For background, the original name of group was the Greenway Alliance. This was changed in 2001 to the Greenway Technical Committee after the Greenway Plan was completed.

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

Snowmobiles were not on the original agenda, but many people attended the meeting specifically to address that subject. Some attendees were under the impression that the Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway Advisory Group would be making a declaration about snowmobiles on the Greenway. There is a perception with some people that BPGWAG meetings are closed to the public and that the group has decision-making authority. Now would be a good time to send out a reminder about the functions and purposes of the BPGWAG and the Greenway Technical Committee.

## IV. Other

- A. **Revised greenway vision statement.** What is the status of this project? This is still in the works but was tabled until later in the spring or summer. Some people may see this as a change to the original vision when it is actually an abbreviation for clarity and ease of reading.
- B. **Bicycle Friendly Community application:** The application has been submitted to the League of American Bicyclists for consideration. The award will be announced sometime in May. It’s doubtful that the city status will jump to silver because there were no major projects or changes from the last application in 2018. It was a good exercise for staff and the public to review the current biking facility network. What are the benefits of the designation other than bragging rights? Will it help in securing funding? The benefit would be that it could extra support funding applications. The final report will be a beneficial report card for staff for future bikeway planning.
- C. Bike etiquette – Dokken Dogs unleashed. Cyclists warning “on your left” signal.

## V. Agency updates

- A. **City of EGF:** All outdoor rinks closed because of staffing shortage.
- B. **GF Park District:** The outdoor rinks are seeing good numbers. This could be because EGF opened fewer outdoor rinks this season. EGF staff has directed people to the rinks in GF. There are plans to redo the horseshoe pit area in Lincoln Drive Park this summer. There

is no longer a league to care for the pits, and recreation has changed and evolved. The plan is to convert a few of the pits to cornhole and ladder ball games.

- C. City of GF:** None.
- D. Minnesota DNR:** The online campground registration has opened for the season. Sites can only be booked 120 days in advance.
- E. GF Streets:** Hauling snow from the December storms has kept staff busy. Over 8,000 truckloads of snow have been hauled away. The recent thaw has made the trails icy. Kim will put out a notice reminding people to use caution on the trails.
- F. GF Fire Department:** The department is adding more staff, which should bring them to a full roster for the first time in a while.

**VI. Next meeting date:** Greenway Technical Committee 10 AM Tuesday, April date TBD, 2023, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club meeting room.

**VII. Upcoming events & meetings**

- Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway Advisory Group mtg: 6 PM Tuesday, April 11, 2023, GF City Hall, 255 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, room TBD.

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

**Support documents:**

- Draft greenway lighting policy
- 2022 Annual report

# 2022 GREENWAY ANNUAL REPORT

## Celebrating 25 YEARS

and looking forward to many more...



1897

1979

1882

It's hard to imagine now, but there was a time when the Red and Red Lake Rivers weren't considered the community assets they are today. Frequent flooding, an unkept riverbank, and limited public access meant many residents didn't see the true potential of the rivers.

You've probably heard the story - The winter of 1996- 1997 brought nine blizzards, brutally low temperatures, eight times the average snowfall, and a spring ice storm combined to produce historic flooding throughout the Red River Valley. Hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, and over 90% of the Greater GF residents were evacuated. But from those dark days emerged a brighter future for both communities with the construction of a permanent flood protection system and greenway.

The Greenway has come a long way since the spring of 1997. Not only does this award-winning facility protect the Greater GF community from floodwater, but it also provides a public space for outdoor recreation and community events. Restoration projects along the rivers have created habitats for wildlife while improving bank stabilization.

It's been a busy 25 years, and The Greenway continues to evolve to the community's needs. We look forward to what the future brings!

### Fast Facts

*Since 1997, The  
Greenway has:*



Increased public park space by  
500% in EGF and 100% in GF



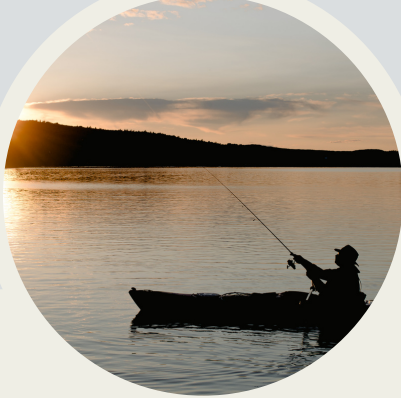
Added 20 miles of paved  
shared-use paths



Restored riverbank vegetation  
has created habitat for wildlife



# 2022 GREENWAY ANNUAL REPORT



## LAFAVE PARK IS GETTING A FACELIFT!

A new canoe and kayak launching dock was just the beginning. East Grand Forks has been awarded a 75% matching grant from Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails for improvements at LaFave Park. The total project cost is expected to be \$1.21 Million, with \$870,580 being funded by the MN DNR Legacy Fund. The remaining \$342,996 (28% of the total project cost) will be paid by the City of EGF. Upgrades are scheduled for a new (and additional) boat ramp, road access, and parking lot improvements. Construction could begin as early as 2024.



## POOL DAYS ARE COOL DAYS

What better way to cool off on a hot summer day than taking a splash in Sherlock or Riverside Pool? The lifeguard shortage impacted hours of operation, but plenty of swimmers still dove into summer fun at the pool.

### By the numbers:

- Sherlock Pool: 19,334
- Riverside Pool: 5,440 (delayed season opener)



## WHO'S UP FOR 'SMORE CAMPING?

Another great season for the Red River State Recreation Campground. Canadian campers were back after a three-year hiatus, and we were glad to see them! Flooding delayed the campground opening by almost one month, but 8,944 campsites rented for 2022 season!



# 2022 GREENWAY ANNUAL REPORT



## WE THINK YOU'LL GET A "KICK" OUT OF THIS

There's a new game in town, and we think you're going to like it. A combination foot and disc golf course was installed in Riverside Park in the fall of 2022. Both activities share the same course but separate "baskets." The course is for beginner players and all it takes to play is a disc or ball large enough to kick.

## WOOD DUCK BOXES

Many thanks to MN DNR Park Ranger Catherine Johnson and her volunteers for finding, cleaning, and marking 38 wood duck boxes in the Greenway. The database they created will help monitor the maintenance needs and nesting patterns of our feathered friends.



## A GIFT WE ALL CAN USE

Cross-country skis, snowshoes, skates, and sleds are now available at the Riverside Park warming house! This equipment is available during warming house hours and is free to use. This equipment was made possible by the generosity of donors to the Greenway and Environment Endowment Fund.

## THIS PLACE IS FOR THE BIRDS & BEES

Literally. Butterflies, bees, and other insect friends will enjoy the new pollinator garden planted at the Red River State Recreation Campground. The first annual Parks for Pollinators was a joint project between the Dakota Science Center and the MN Department of Natural Resources.





# KEEP IN TOUCH!

## **The Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway Advisory Group**

Second Tuesday of the month (except July)  
6 PM @ GF City Hall  
255 North 4th Street, Room A102  
Open to all GGF residents

## **The Greenway Technical Committee**

10 AM on the third Tuesday of the month  
bimonthly (January, March, May, July,  
September, and November)  
ICON Sports Center  
1060 47th Avenue South  
in the Blue Line Club meeting room

Open to all GGF residents

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