



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Low river levels, the Pandemic, and weather extremes 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 extended high summer temperatures pushed visitors to find ways to be close to the water. Fishing, boating, and shore bank recreation were popular pastimes to escape the summer heat.

Winter recreation continued to grow as favorable snow conditions encouraged skiers, skaters, sledders, and snowmobilers to find fresh powder to enjoy their sport. Only bitterly cold weather (and there was some of that) kept people away from the Greenway.

A new look

User Etiquette

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.

This year the work included:

- 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 rivers and 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 Palmiscno and wish him well in retirement.

campground news



After two years of delayed openings and early closings, the Red River State Recreation Area Sherlock Campground was able to open and close on the scheduled 2021 dates. Occupancy rates were steady, with 9,102 sites rented and an estimated 19,679 happy campers spending the night in Greater Grand Forks. Outdoor programming was canceled due to COVID-19 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 in the area. And their four babies were a hit with park visitors!



Pool time!

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 the 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 – 140 people & a daily season high of 382



Drop-in Quarter Pipe. Single Kinked Grind Rail. Low to High Pump Bump. These terms may not mean much for some people, but local skateboarders flocked to try out these features at the phase 2 expansion at the Rydell Skatepark in Kannowski Park.

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

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.

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

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