

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

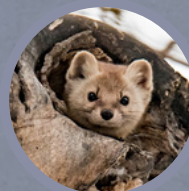
*Since 1997, The
Greenway has:*



Increased public park space
approx. 5x in EGF and 2x in GF



Added 20 miles of paved
shared-use paths



Restored riverbank vegetation
to create habitat for wildlife

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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!

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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!

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

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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