

**Greenway & Trail Users Advisory Group (GTUAG)**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday, May 8, 2012 - 7:00 PM**  
**GF Park District, 1210 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND**

Matt Yavarow, City of GF Engineering  
Wes Rogers  
Dick O'Connor  
Dan Splichal

Roxanne Achman, City of GF Planning  
Rick Blair  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

**I. Previous discussion items:**

- a. **Status of the supplement to the original Greenway Plan:** Status of the supplement to the original Greenway Plan: The final plan has been completed and is ready for distribution. It will be available on the Greenway website soon.
- b. **Disc golf course at Riverside Park:** The first mowing was done this week. The cleanup project was to remove weeds, tall grass, woody flood debris, and a few stumps in preparation for the course. There were no live trees removed from the site. The removal of the burdock will help with the cross country skiing routes through this area.

Two local birders contacted Kim to ask what was happening and why was it necessary. One bird watcher was concerned that migratory or environmental impact studies were not done before the mowing. These studies were not done because the site was being restored to pre-flood conditions and the migratory bird act is for the protection of sales and export of migratory birds. Kim will meet with Dave Lambeth, representative for the local birding group, and discuss the overall greenway plan to discuss how bird habitat fits into the continuing development of the Greenway. This has been done in the past with other user groups such as snowmobilers, dog owners, etc.

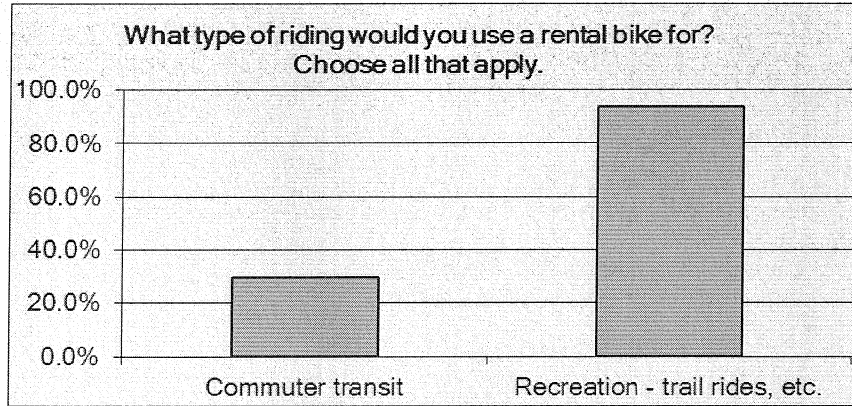
- c. **Bike rental racks:** The survey results were shared with the committee. Bike rentals have been discussed for many years but so far there have been no rentals available at the Greenway. UND Wellness Center contacted Kim about a year and a half ago and expressed interest in bike rental racks on campus. The GGF Convention and Visitors Bureau is also interested in having bike rental racks around the community. The group decided to conduct an online public survey to gauge interest in this type of service. The survey generated three hundred and fourteen responses.

UND tried a green bike program on campus but it wasn't successful because users had no financial ties to the bike. Many of the bikes were damaged or lost and the project was abandoned. A bike rental rack program makes users financially responsible for damages or loss of a bike. The racks work similar to renting a stroller at the shopping mall; a person swipes their credit or prepaid membership card and removes the bike from the rack. The bike can be returned to the same rack or left at another rack. A software chip in the bike tracks when the bike is put into use and returned to the rack.

Kim will be contacting private businesses about their interest in providing bike rentals along the Greenway. This could be either with a staffed facility or a rental rack system. The City could be involved in the project by pursuing outside funding to purchase the racks. Most private enterprises are not eligible for federal funding through transportation grants. The program would be administered through a private company. The Dial-a-Ride program is an example of a federally funded program that is administered by a private vendor. The city would also be involved with the placement of the racks on city owned property. There are also sponsorship opportunities through the Livability Grant, Blue Cross Blue Shield, or other transportation or health related industries.

## Bike Rental Rack Survey Results April 2012

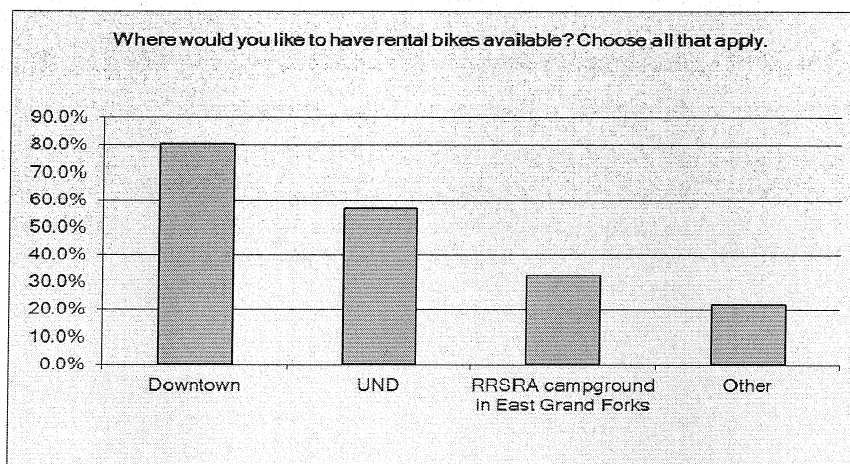
### Question #1



### Responses to Question #1

1. running errands, or if company was in town.
2. none. save the taxpayer money
3. I wouldn't use it personally because I have my own bikes
4. school campus would be great
5. None
6. None
7. Guests of hotel would use
8. None
9. I wouldn't rent a bike
10. would not rent bike
11. none
12. Neither
13. would not use
14. sightseeing
15. none - its a dumb idea
16. I visit Grand Forks on the weekend, and would love to have a bike rental available so that I could ride with my friends in the area.
17. None
18. Visiting Friends & Family
19. None
20. family visiting
21. None
22. none
23. NA
24. nothing
25. Trail riders. Currently 2 riders w training wheels
26. Bike for 2

### Question #3

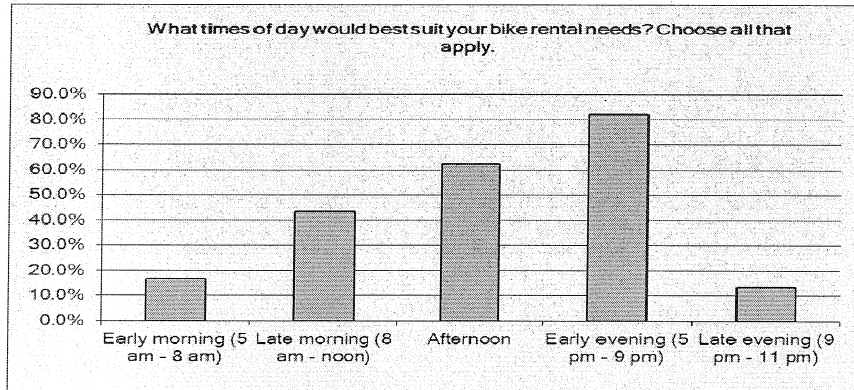


### Responses to Question #3

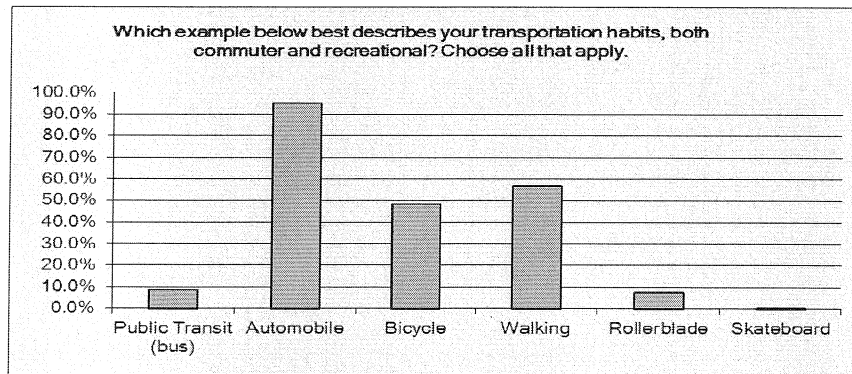
1. Around the River, bike paths
2. greenway
3. near the bikeway
4. mall
5. none. save the taxpayer money
6. Alerus/CanadInn
7. No Where
8. none
9. it really isnt necessary to have rentals available
10. Greenway trails
11. hotels
12. Near target/walmart/columbia mall
13. Altru, throughout town
14. all over
15. Near my home
16. None
17. I wouldn't rent a bike
18. Lincoln Park
19. grand cities mall
20. parks
21. have own bike
22. Motels
23. none, you will loose money
24. Point close to the Greenway trails.
25. none
26. malls
27. No place. its stupid and a waste of money
28. Lincoln Park
29. Various places along the greenway so I can park and ride from further south
30. close to all the bike trails

- 79. Greenway
- 80. Columbia Mall area or near the bike paths
- 81. Greenway, Altru Hospital, Choice Fitness
- 82. Lincoln Park
- 83. Lincoln park area of greenway
- 84. I would like to see rental bikes throughout the city.
- 85. Along greenway
- 86. Alerus
- 87. South Washington somewhere?
- 88. somewhere along gateway as well.
- 89. South End of Town - By New Wellness Center
- 90. a south location on the Greenway
- 91. Lincoln Park
- 92. Near the south-end developments.
- 93. Greenway
- 94. Lincoln Park
- 95. Somewhere central along the greenway

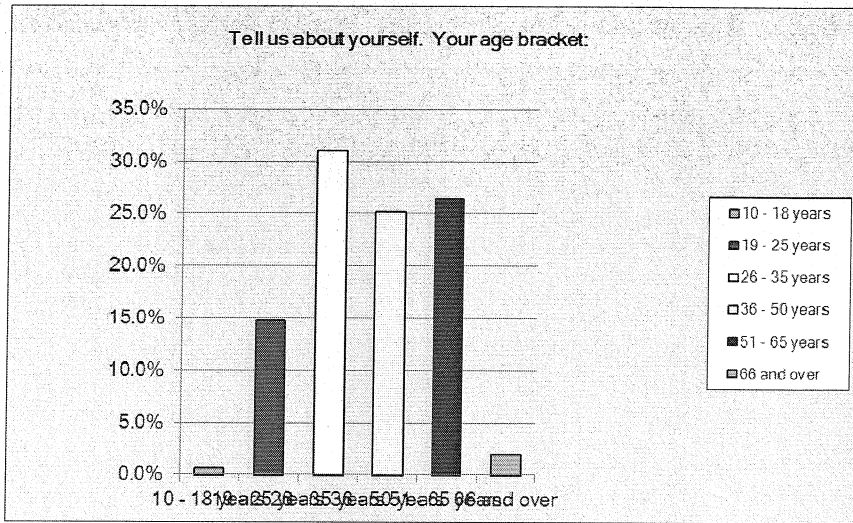
**Question #4**



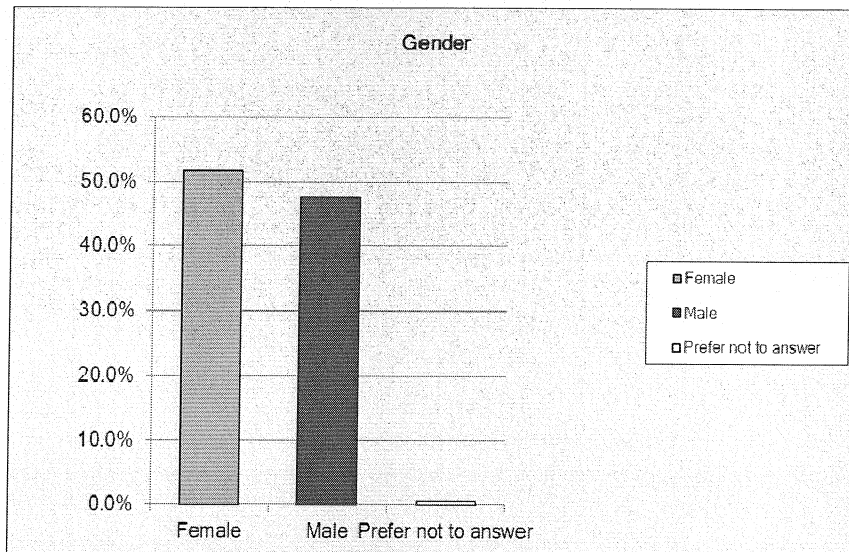
**Question #5**



### Question #7



### Question #8



21. This is a great idea!

22. This is a great idea!

23. I like the programs that allow you to leave the bike someplace, and someone else picks it up, and you just take another bike that is available,

24. I think this is unnecessary for the Grand Forks community and inappropriate for the city to sponsor. Rental bikes in the twin cities are expensive and sit unused.

25. I am a retired teacher and have no connection or interest in private businesses that sell bikes. Once again we have a city entity possibly entering into what I see as competition with the private sector. I am not in favor of a bike rental business run by the city or park board.

26. awesome idea..I own a bike but live a ways from the bike paths..would like a bike available close to the greenway..also work downtown and it would be nice to get on a bike at lunch and take a 1/2 hr ride..awesome idea for visitors to enjoy a ride as well..also work with homeless persons in our community who may find a bike rental possible to get somewhere for an interview etc. Keep up the great work Greenway Group...the greenway and its activities really add to our city

27. I think it is a great idea that we are considering bike rentals! It would add a touristy activity for those visiting(and those not)! Hope to see this soon!

28. I live in a nearby small town that does not have the same wonderful trails Grand Forks has. This would be a great option I could utilize instead of figuring out a way to bring my bike into town using a small car. It would be wonderful for farmer's market days! Great idea!

29. I have seen these in both Minneapolis and Saint Paul and have been hoping the city would add them. This would be a wonderful addition to the Grand Forks Community!

30. Such a great idea! ... would help us get fit! ..and I hope that this becomes a reality!

31. you will loose lots of money administrating something so stupid.

32. Too old for bikes

33. I live in Wpg but come to Grand Forks once per summer and would be interested in renting a bike to ride on the trail by the river, close to Cabela's.

34. I own a bike, but do not live near the greenway. It would be nice to be able to rent a bike downtown and spend a Saturday afternoon riding along the river.

35. We should NOT be emulating Madison wisconsin. Our taxes are too high. I do not support this. People can buy their OWN bikes

36. You will be taken more seriously if you did not have gross spelling errors in your survey.

37. I do not have a bicycle in Grand Forks, but I do own a bicycle at home.

38. I also think if there were kid seats attached for families with young children. Or the pull behind carriers for children, as some will hold two children.

39. This would be an amazing solution for UND students and their access to the GF community.

40. I live outside of town and don't have a bike path to get to the Greenway but would love to bike there!

41. Love the idea, but not sure we can support something like this in our community without it being cost prohibitive. Unfortunately, we have some significantly different population and weather characteristics than Paris, DC & Madison.

42. While I own a road bike, I would love to rent a mountain bike for trails around town.

43. I would use bike rental when family comes to visit and don't have a bike and want to ride as a family.

44. I also ride a motorcycle but would love the opportunity to use a bicycle as I have storage issues that prevent me from purchasing one

45. I have rented bikes in bigger Cities (Chicago and Washington DC) and I don't think Grand Forks is large enough to support a program. In Chicago the rental stand is maned and you rent by the hour. The bikes are comfort bikes and you pay when done. In Washington the rental bikes are in stands where you use a credit card and take the bike. When done you can return the bike to any stand you want.

71. Even though I own my own bike, I think it's a great idea for those who don't have one and for places where I don't want to take my bike in my car.
72. No taxpayer money to fund this please.
73. Visiting summer students at UND would really appreciate the availability of rental bikes. We've tried to help them find them at Goodwill, etc, and have loaned them our own bikes.
74. This is not a good idea for grand forks
75. Would be nice to have some rental bikes just downtown for all the bike paths along the red.
76. There are some very excellent bike rental programs across the U.S. We should base ours off of those.
77. May not have purchased bike if this service was available, highly recommend trying it.
78. Let ski and bike or scheels rent bikes, there's a reason that people don't leave their bikes outside anymore. Please think of a better way to improve the greenway if that's what you want to do.
79. Would be easier to take rides on the greenway, without having to take my bike in trunk of the car, or ride it across town to get there.
80. Great Idea, Would love to see it implemented in GF
81. I don't think this is a usefull idea
82. I can see the benefits and believe it could be great, but my husband and I would not personally use them due to already owning bikes & a car bike rack.
83. I see a very strong need for a bike rental program in Grand Forks. I really get sick and tired of hearing the negative things about a program, such as the bikes will get stolen, or the bikes will need repair, or you need a person to check them out. For crying out loud, get with the times. There are bike programs all over the U.S. I was just in DC and there are red bikes ridden all over that city. It's called Capital Bikeshare and you can even rent a bike by the month or a year. Look it up - <http://www.capitalbikeshare.com/> If they can have a bike rental program, Grand Forks certainly can. You do NOT need a person standing there checking out bikes. Partner with the Ski and Bike Shop for repair. I was also just in Austin, TX, the bike riding capital of the U.S. There are bike share racks all throughout the entire city. They are also a university town, with students riding bikes all over. And their program just got a 1.5 M boost - <http://downtownaustinblog.org/2011/12/15/austin-bike-share-gets-a-1-5-million-boost/>. UND students would love a bike share program, I know, I work there. Grand Forks is so unbelievably behind the times it's embarrassing.
84. I think its a great idea!
85. Are these bicycles or motorized scooters, or what? We need more information, such as pictures and specs. Some reports state we're looking at \$3,500 automated bikes, which makes no sense. For a thousand less we could buy Honda Elites from area business area business Revolution Powersports. There are so many other options, and this survey does not yet provide any insight as to those possibilities.
86. this is a good idea
87. It is highly unlikely I would utilize this program. We just don't have the weather for biking to be predictable and/or frequent. If the weather were better, I'd use my own bike. Maybe I'm wrong, but in our community not owning a bike doesn't seem to be the top reason people drive themselves to work.
88. I would LOVE a bike share program! I hate storing my bicycle in my dorm during the winter months!
89. It would be nice to have such an option available in GF, but I personally would not likely use it.
90. Grand Forks is not big enough nor does it have enough tourism to support a feature such as this. It would just end up being another burden on the taxpayer!!!
91. I want to see this succeed, but don't know if I'd use it much myself, as I have my own bike. But if it were available, I'd do everything in my power to advocate for it, and help get the word out.
92. The bicycle is such an archaic form of transportation. We need to think more like Captain Kirk of the Star Trek Enterprise if we are going to move forward in this city. Their use of the Transporter is the future.
93. It would be cool if it could be similar to the ones in Minneapolis. They are free but you use your credit card to rent them in case they aren't returned they are charged for the bike. It is all mechanical. No people rent out the bikes.

112. Having rental racks set up throughout Grand Forks, in the same way that Minneapolis has kiosks set up would be great for our city.
113. Think of a 4-wheel pedal sourey that people could rent along greenway and ride with their friends as a leisure.
114. Sounds good option for visitors to the city
115. A community / cooperative bike repair location would be great. Kayak and canoe rentals by the river would be a lot of fun.
116. I often have friends visit from out of town during the summer and have been very disappointed in the lack of affordable bike rental for adults and children. This is a great idea!
117. This is a wonderful idea. I hope this happens.
118. If there were bike rentals, I would leave my bicycle at home! That way I wouldn't have to deal with storing it in the winter... Bike rentals would be awesome!
119. My family rides bicycles in the Greenway frequently, and view that opportunity as a tremendous community asset. We feel that a rental program could expand the opportunities for others to enjoy the Greenway. (Consider perhaps including rollerblades in the program.)
120. My bike is old
121. please be open on weekends for out of city visitors
122. I would use bike rental programs located near the Greenway so I would not have to transport my bike there from a long distance away.
123. I would really like it for my company that comes to visit. We would like to take them for a bike ride but cant because we dont have enough bikes.
124. This is great! I imagine there will be a lot of criticism, so good luck!