

Greenway Technical Committee

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Grand Forks Park District Office, 1210-7th Ave. S. Grand Forks, ND
10:30 am- Noon

Lonny Winrich, Chair
Gladwin Lynne, RRSRA
Dave Aker, EGF Parks & Rec
Ann Sande
Roxanne Achman, GF Planning
Lt. Jeff Burgess, GF Police

Teri Kouba, MPO
Tom Reiten
Steve Mullally, GF Park District
Melanie Parvey, City of GF
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

Guests: Laurie Ashworth
Alan Ashworth

I. Old Business

- a. **Trail signage and mile markers:** No change.

II. New Business

- a. **Eagle Scout project in Sunbeam area:** Local Boy Scout Alan Ashworth presented information about his project to build a small play and seating area along the lower trail in the Sunbeam area. The goal of the project is to encourage kids to play on natural play structures. The structures will be built from the trees that washed up during the spring flood and ones removed as part of preparing the area. The approximate area of this project is thirty feet deep and fifty feet wide. Features will be tied together and staked to the ground. The area has been cleared of debris and undergrowth and with consistent use there shouldn't be many vegetation management concerns. Signage will be installed to acknowledge the project.
- b. **Greenway & Trail Users Advisory Group update:** Agenda items include a letter to Mayor Brown to install bicycle racks throughout the community in public areas, trail maintenance and funding.

III. Greenway Agency Updates

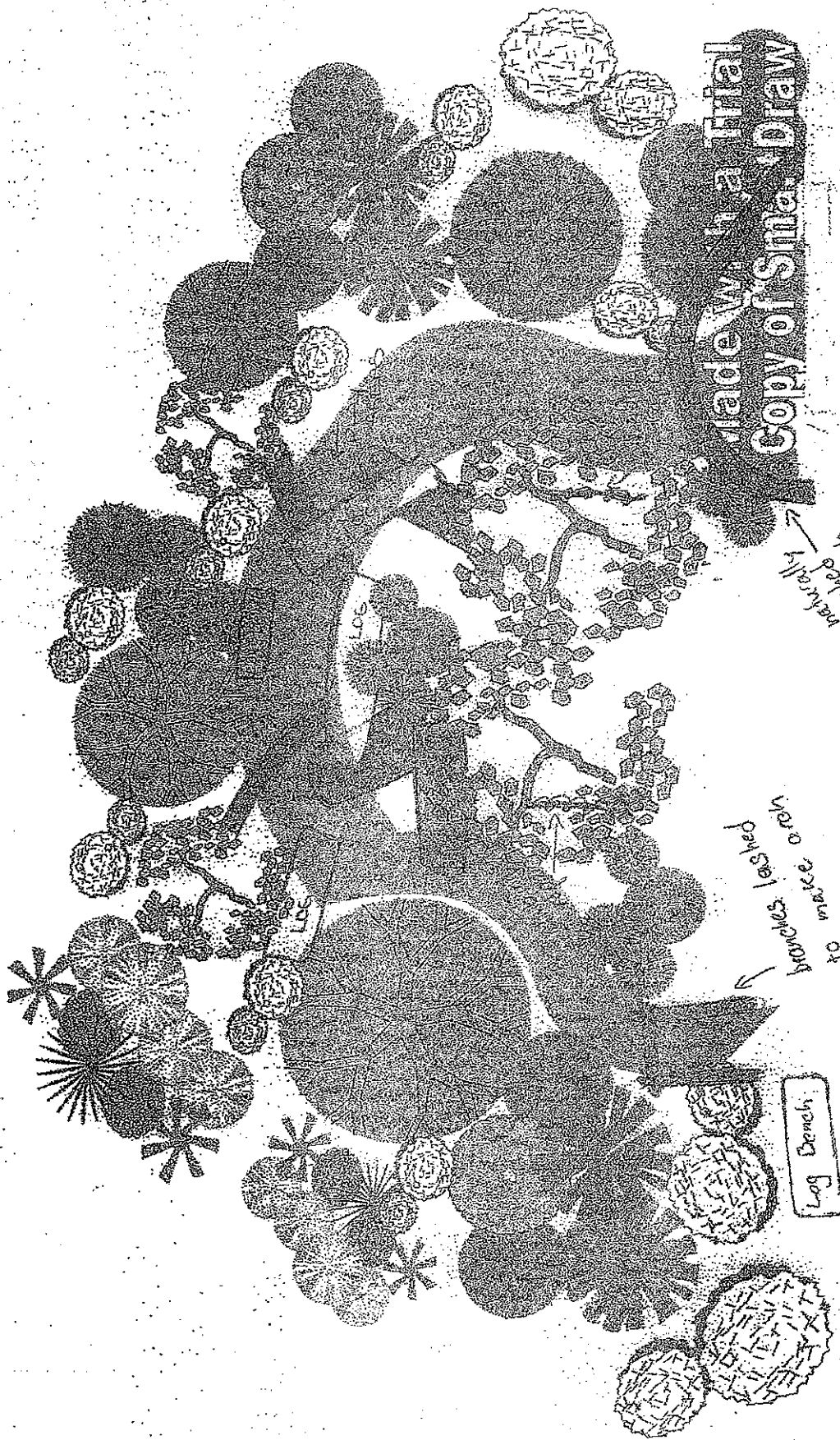
- a. **City of EGF:** In the past few weeks there has been an increase of vandalism to the signs along the trail in the campground. Camping registrations are up for 600 over last year. The campground will be closing on October 4 and trail heads will be closing on September 21. Dave is looking at some grant opportunities to pay to reroute the path from the Louis Murray Bridge to the railroad bridge in East Grand Forks. The current path along the river has been taken over by anglers accessing the shore for fishing. This has caused rutting and other maintenance issues for the asphalt.
- b. **City of GF:** There lots of races and events coming up over the next few weekends. Information about these events is available on the greenway website. Increased events on both sides of the river have made communication between agencies even more important. Kim is working with Dave on how to improve that communication.
- c. **GF Park District:**
- d. **MN DNR:** No report
- e. **MPO:** The Transportation Plan is still being assembled and should be ready for review by the end of the year.
- f. **Friends of the Greenway:** It is unclear whether the group is still meeting as neither Ann nor Lonny have received any communications from the group.

IV. Other

- a. **Project requests:** The managing agencies receive many requests for project ideas for the Greenway. The group would like to develop a form for such requests to assist staff with tracking and planning. Kim will assemble a draft form to be reviewed at the next Greenway Technical Committee staff meeting.
- b. **Snowmobiles:** Signs will be installed in the Grand Forks portion of the Greenway this fall.

V. Next Greenway Technical Committee meeting: November 10, 2009 – 10:30 am at Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist, City of Grand Forks



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to make a nice branchy shape

Log Branch

LOS

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project name Greenway Natural Playground

Describe the project you plan to do.

Working with the Greenway Manager for the City of Grand Forks and under direct alignment with the Mayor's plan for the Greenway area, this Eagle Project will be to design and build a natural playground area along a section of the Greenway. The proposed area is 50 ft. by 30ft. directly adjacent to a paved bike and walking path. This area is currently no more than a thicket of trees with dense underbrush that is not utilized in any manner—not even as a rest area since there is not a bench.

The area will first be cleared of grass, underbrush, and weeds by a group of volunteers under the direction the Alan Ashworth, the Scout. The area under the large trees will be cleared to the soil level. The trees and bushes surrounding the site will be trimmed to a neat appearance.

The next step in the process is to measure and determine which logs and wood pieces are to be used and their placement. The Scout and volunteers will measure, cut, and transport the various logs and material to the cleared site.

Once in place, the logs will be secured into the ground using nylon robe and metal stakes. This will ensure the materials do not shift or move while children are climbing, sitting, or otherwise exploring the area. Also, two benches will be constructed using the same fashion—one at the front and one in the middle of the playground area.

At the North and South side of the area, arch ways will be constructed using smaller tree material and will be lashed together using nylon robe and secured into the ground.

Further, on the advise of the Greenway Manager, 2 or 3 climbing robes will be attached to the mature trees to encourage the children to actually climb up the trees. The robes will be knotted to facilitate the climb, placed over cleared areas, and only a few feet in length.

Note: The Greenway Manger highly recommended this addition as to align with the Mayor's vision of having children explore their natura world; many children have never had the opportunity to climb on anything that was not plastic, such as school-yard playground equipment. Every safety precaution will be utilized to ensure the user's safety.