

An aerial, black and white photograph of a river valley. A winding road follows the curve of the valley, crossing a bridge over the river. The surrounding area is densely wooded, and the overall scene is captured from a high angle, showing the natural contours of the landscape.

The Greenway

Grand Forks, ND • East Grand Forks, MN

Chapter Two Vision and Goals

May 2001

Chapter 2.

Greenway Vision and Goals

A Greenway system for the communities of Grand Forks, ND and East Grand Forks, MN has the potential of returning to local residents a variety of benefits related to recreation, transportation, floodplain management, improved access to outdoor resources, economic development, tourism, and an enriched quality of life. In January, February and March 1998, the US Army Corps of Engineers and Greenways Incorporated conducted a series of community workshops and public meetings to solicit input from the residents of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. Five workshops occurred during this time period. Approximately 200 people participated in the workshops. Additionally, local radio and television stations and newspapers publicized the results of the workshops. From these workshops the following vision, goals and objectives were defined. This vision, goals and objectives were later ratified by the Greenway Alliance and residents of both communities through additional community workshops held in June and July 1999.

Vision

The Red and Red Lake Rivers Greenway will protect residents of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks from flooding, provide opportunities for economic growth, improve and restore ecological stability of the river corridor, link residents and tourists to four-seasons of recreation and transportation facilities, provide linkage between the cities, preserve and promote the history and culture of the region through education, and improve the quality of life for future generations.

Figure 19: Grand Forks and East Grand Forks should promote the Greenway through year round events, such as a Winter Cross-Country Ski Race. (Photo courtesy of Will Gosnold)

Goals and Objectives

From the vision statement, specific goals and objectives were defined by the workshop participants to help define how the vision could be implemented. Goals define key concepts and strategies for the Greenway. Objectives further define how the goals might best be achieved. *Objectives with asteriks define those that participants felt were most important to achieve.*

Goal 1: Promote and Implement the Greenway:

Objectives

- Build support for the Greenway concept keeping in mind the safety and flood protection properties of the original



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concept, which must be the first consideration of the Plan.*

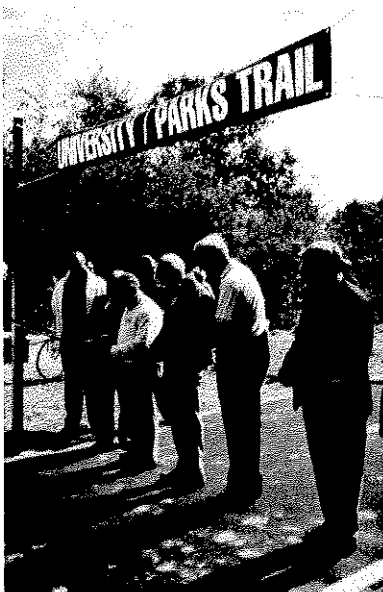
- Get the community involved in the master planning and design for the Greenway.*
- Develop common link or bond and sense of belonging or ownership to help unify the communities.
- Integrate local, county, state and federal plans for communities adjacent to the Red River and Red Lake River.
- Develop a governing structure that allows for a variety of compatible uses.
- Insure that approved amenities will be flood proof and compatible with the floodplain.
- Develop a multi-use greenway that is flexible to change.
- Ensure that the Greenway is included as part of the Community Conversation dialogue.

Goal 2: Support and Enhance the Community

Objectives

- Promote tourism through year round attractions and activities.*
- Keep the Greenway appropriately maintained and managed.*
- Support economic development.
- Create a festive atmosphere for year round activities.
- Create space and activities that bring the community together.
- Focus on the arts and create spaces for the display of art.
- Make sure that the Greenway is open to downtown amenities.
- Provide aesthetic transitions from levees to neighborhoods.
- Create beautiful areas that serve the public.
- Preserve and protect aesthetic resources.
- Make Greenway development consistent and supportive of East Grand Forks and Grand Forks downtown redevelopment plans.

Figure 20: Partners will be important in order to promote, develop and manage the Greenway.



Goal 3: Promote Partnering

Objectives

- Build federal, state, county and local partnerships to support Greenway.*
- Build partnerships with community groups, organizations, neighborhoods and schools.*
- Determine management partners before design and development.
- Consider regulatory and permit requirements.
- Select partnering groups for governing.
- Define an evangelist who will champion the Greenway plan and see it through to completion.
- Coordinate community redevelopment with plans for the Greenway.
- Develop a steering committee to guide overall development process. (River Forks Commission could be a lead partner)
- Define a structure that allows for and promotes individualism within the overall structure of Greenway implementation.

Goal 4: Enhance, Protect and Restore the Environment

Objectives

- Activities along the river corridor should minimize adverse effects on water quality, fish and wildlife, vegetation, bank stability, stream flow, visual qualities, noise and safety.*
- Provide a wildlife corridor that links habitat patches.*
- Promote public awareness and use of the river.
- Emphasize and enhance the value of the riparian corridor.
- Improve ecological stability of the river corridor.
- Use native species where prudent.
- Restore fish migration and spawning habitat.
- Improve water quality and aquatic life.
- Promote non-point source water treatment.
- Manage local drainage systems to enhance the riverine ecosystem.
- Provide year round outdoor learning experiences for all age groups.
- Promote low maintenance for natural areas.
- Use soft engineering design solutions.



Figure 21: Protecting the natural greenspace of the communities will be as important as restoring the cultural heritage.

Goal 5: Preserve and Promote Cultural/ Historical Heritage

Objectives

- Preserve, through relocation, historic structures.*
- Provide historic interpretation and education through wayside exhibits.
- Preserve cities' and region's history.
- Interpret, through Type C visitor center, flood history and local history.
- Interpret symbolic memorial to the flood.
- Soften impact of flood levee walls.

Goal 6: Maximize Recreation Opportunities and Promote Healthy Lifestyle

Objectives

- Provide a variety of recreational facilities, including river-oriented opportunities.*
- Provide future paths for hiking, biking, and other trail activities.*
- Provide for year-round use (winter activities).*
- Mitigate existing recreation in the floodplain and relocate.
- Provide as many diverse recreation opportunities as possible.
- Provide large open spaces for public use.
- Provide roads and parking facilities.

- Provide low maintenance and flood-proofed facilities.
- Provide sites for relaxation, mental welfare and well-being.
- Be sensitive to upheaval, trauma and disruption of lives from 1997 Flood.
- Provide universally accessible trail system.
- Provide trail access to adjacent retirement centers.
- Encourage private development near Greenway.
- Provide access to greenway and between neighborhoods through the floodwall system.
- Connect cities with additional river crossings.
- Use “Fingers of Green” concept to connect area businesses and residences in both communities.
- Link greenway uses.

More Specific Goals and Objectives: East Grand Forks

As part of the planning process the community of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, formulated the following additional goals and objectives for the Greenway. These goals also include a loop dike and trails system around the city. The city partnered with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to prepare these goals and greenway plan.

Goal:

To create an attractive, functional, public green space along the Red River and Red Lake River which provides recreation, environmental and economic benefits to the community and improves quality of life for East Grand Forks residents and businesses.

Objectives:

- Establish a major interpretive visitors center for the MNDNR, partnering with MN Tourism, MNDOT, USFWS and the EGF School District.*
- Team with partners (including MN DNR, tourism, etc.) to act as a “Gateway to Minnesota Resources” and to utilize the Greenway as a visitor attraction.*
- Pursue a MN State Recreation Area designation for the Greenway.*
- Preserve the floodway area and assure appropriate use of the land.
- Create an environmental sustainable, safe and aesthetically pleasing riverfront area.
- Provide recreation for a wide range of users and seasons.
- Form partnerships to assist in the construction, use, and operation of the Greenway.

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- Enhance access to and use of the rivers.
- Coordinate the Greenway with Army Corps of Engineers flood control and improvement efforts.
- Connect the community with a comprehensive trail network.
- Develop corridor trails to neighboring communities (ie. Crookston, MN).
- Coordinate plans, activities and use of the Greenway with the City of Grand Forks, ND, and other agencies and organizations.
- Tell the cultural, historic and environmental stories of the city and the region.
- Utilize the Greenway for special events and community celebration.
- Minimize long term operating and maintenance costs.
- Restore and maintain floodplain forest and tall grass prairie.
- Improve ecological diversity to better represent the Red River Valley.

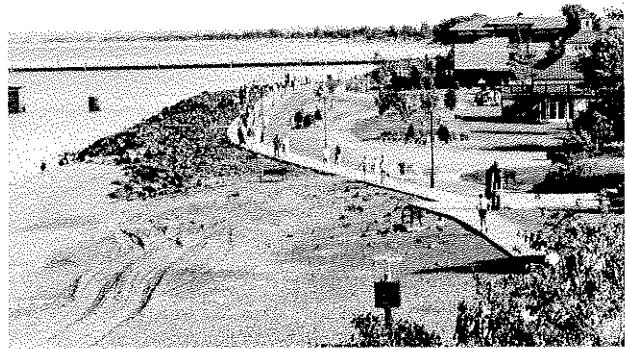


Figure 22: Greenways and visitors centers are important recreation and economic elements. Renovation of the lakeshore and the location of a USACE Visitors Center helped revitalize tourism and economic development in Duluth, Minnesota.