

## Public input on extending the snowmobile route in The Greenway

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To: Nelson, Mark <MNelson@grandforksgov.com>

Cc: Love, Dwight <DLove@grandforksgov.com>; Johnson, Brett <BAJohnson@grandforksgov.com>

 1 attachments (1 MB)

Final report and analysis - Snowmobile route in GW 11-17-2022.pdf;

Chief Nelson,

Thank you for the chance to gather input on the proposed snowmobile trail extension into the Greenway. I hope the information in the attached results are beneficial to you while you consider your decision. I would note that the area most impacted by the extension (south of DeMers Avenue) had the most participation and comments about the proposal. Residents in this area are closer to the Greenway than those in Riverside Park. Let me know if you have questions about the data or want to drill down on a specific item.

This request has generated a lot of conversations about what the Greenway is and could be. Is this a place for everything? Is it a place for simplicity? The answer is different for everyone and can be fluid. My guiding principles for decision-making have always been how any new addition impacts flood protection, affects user conflict, and maintenance of public property for the benefit of the residents. Sometimes it takes a while to get the right balance.

If you decide to extend the route, I would ask that heavy enforcement and public service announcements be made. The survey revealed a common theme that I have heard for many years – the lack of enforcement. The other underlying theme seems to ask if solving one problem escalates another problem and at who's expense? Also, removing the route through the Southend Drainway makes everyone who lives on the west side of town a criminal because that's how they have been traveling east to west. That would have to be addressed in all public service announcements.

If the route isn't extended, I would ask that we continue the discussion over the next few months and allow users and nearby residents to work toward compromises and solutions. Extending the route impacts the lack of a designated trail in south EGF, but we haven't had that discussion yet. We've grown to a community of over 70,000 residents and I'd like to make sure that we are addressing that growth.

I appreciate your willingness to look for solutions. Let me know what I can do to further that goal.

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