

Greenway Technical Committee
Meeting - February 12, 2002
10:30AM – Grand Forks Park District Office

In Attendance: Rachel Jacobson (Grand Forks Park District), Helen Cozzetto (MN DNR), Chad Konickson (MN DNR), Michelle Mongeon (DLG), Anne Sandee (Friends of the Greenway), Marty Egland (NDGF), Lynn Shlader (NDGF), Steve Renslow (Red River Snowmobile Club), Cory Burkholz (Options), Ben Ehreth (GF Greenway), John Winter (MN DNR), Melanie Parvey-Biby (GF Greenway), Steve Mullaly (Grand Forks Park District), Dale Skyberg (East Grand Forks)

I. Fishing Sites and Water Access

Greenway concept maps handed out showing bank access and possible boat ramp locations.

Minnesota Boat Ramp: Citizens working with the City of East Grand Forks to move north boat access further north (outside city limits), north of golf course. Located on a high bank on a straight stretch of river. Has the potential to be used at all river stages. What is the time frame? There is money available from DNR grants but haven't seen any grant proposal.

Grand Forks Boat Ramps: Melanie met with Game and Fish and talked about improvements to north ramp and a boat ramp near Elks Dr. area. No grants have been put together yet because of timing. Thinking about doing it with the Corps project and Elks Dr. would be next year. Applications for the grants are due at the end of December. Two ramps were identified one south of the Dam and one north of the Dam. The southern ramp would be located south of the Lincoln Park Golf Course. The Corps can put a parking lot in the area but a ramp would not be part of the Corps project.

Shore Fishing Sites: Sites on the map were all identified in the Public planning process. All possibilities were listed on the map. MN DNR has maps showing ideal fishing locations. Funding is an issue so there is a need to prioritize the sites. Sites have been identified but need to be evaluated. Most (NDGF) funding will be put into boat ramps. Key to shore bank fishing sites is minimum maintenance. When identification was done Corps stated they would be incorporated but they would not do them. The City of Grand Forks hasn't incorporated fishing sites yet – they are on the conceptual plan but haven't developed a means to fund them. Some of the sites need to be ADA accessible. Will there be a lot of changes from the map or just prioritizing? Just prioritizing.

Mapping Issues: A need to get everything on one map. It would help to get all the information on one map and shade in the phases of the Corps project. Do we have a basic map, which shows just the River? – MPO has aerial photos on their system. Keep the same graphic and look throughout so there is consistency. ArcView allows layers to be added. Meeting proposed with staff to start development to create a system, which can be added to. Also discussed developing binders to keep all the information together, Park District will check into this.

II. EGF Dam Project – Mike Larson

Mike Larson not present to discuss status of the project.

Mike has obtained approximately \$100,000 to redo the dam. Unclear as to where Mike got the funding from. The dam on the Red Lake River would include rock providing for a fish passage over the dam.

III. Greenway Maintenance Planning Process

Public Input Meeting: A public meeting was held on January 24, 2002 to get public comment on Greenway maintenance issues. Four levels of maintenance were suggested ranging from a high level to areas left in a natural state. Horticulture Society meeting was included with the public comments. The Grand Forks Herald did a good job informing the public of the public input meeting but not as many participants attended as staff would have preferred. Various comments heard from the public input meeting, were to leave a lot of the area natural. MN DNR liked the levels of maintenance suggested and looking at implementing a similar process.

Maintenance: Possibility for a maintenance partnership. One community could mow on both sides, while the other could help implement and maintain natural restoration sites on both sides. This could potentially lower equipment costs. Concerns about estimated cost in various maintenance levels in the Grand Forks maintenance plan. High level maintenance should cost more per acre than lower level maintenance. A more detailed classification scheme was discussed in the maintenance plan. For instance separating open areas with treed areas and areas with levees. EGF interest in obtaining contractual information from the City of Grand Forks.

IV. Interpretive Sign

Various sites throughout the project have been identified for interpretive signage but Phase I includes some of the kiosks which signage needs to be developed for. Signs should be consistent and uniform throughout the Greenway so one area does not appear different from the other. MN DNR– the first site we'll be working on is the Point site. The area will be kept natural and an interest to do interpretive signage. Questions about site selection for restoration on the Grand Forks side. City of Grand Forks- no specific sites have been identified, sites may be identified through maintenance planning. Possibility to bring a regional naturalist in if both communities pick a site to do interpretation. DNR kiosks need to be coordinated with Corps kiosks. Question about what Corps kiosks will contain. Details in the design palette suggest the kiosks will be three sided with maps, which can be placed behind locked glass. DNR suggests that every kiosk should have a "you are here" sign.

Design Palette: EGF had a concern about DNR using their own design instead of design palette, although the palette is based on DNR design. Sherlock Campground will be the only area, which uses elements differing from the design palette. Grand Forks is staying with the elements in the design palette. Suggested to add this information to the binders so that the committee can refer to it.