
City of Grand Forks

Staff Report

Service/Safety Committee April 23, 2013

Agenda Item: Disc Golf Course Expansion in Riverside Park

Submitted by: Todd Feland, Public Works Directory
Melanie Parvey, Environmental/Greenway/Administrative Manager
Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist

Staff Recommended Action: Approve the area expansion of a Disc Golf Course in the Riverside Park area of the Grand Forks Greenway

Committee Recommended Action:

Council Action: N/A

BACKGROUND:

On April 10, 2012, the Service/Safety Committee approved adding a disc golf course to the Riverside Park area of the Grand Forks Greenway. The Grand Forks Disc Golf Association is the disc golf course project leader.

When Mr. Travis Hagen of the disc golf association staked out the disc golf course in 2012, the disc golf course was outside the originally approved boundaries. Because the disc golf course was outside of the originally approved area, City Staff required the disc golf association to resubmit a revised course map through the Greenway planning and approval process.

The Greenway Technical Committee approved this change on April 9, 2013, and are now forwarding on to the Service/Safety Committee for final approval. The original and expanded disc golf course drawing is attached.

The City of Grand Forks owns the land in the Grand Forks Greenway, although there are a number of areas in the Greenway that the Grand Forks Park District manages on behalf of the City of Grand Forks, such as the Riverside Park and Pool.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- Public comment was sought again and received on this subject matter and is attached for more information.
- Based on citizen input, City Staff will look at traffic control measures to slow the traffic in the Riverside Park area.
- The positive side of the potential of increase in traffic is that bringing additional people to a park can be a deterrent to illegal or unwanted activity.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Potential Disc Golf Course Site Map March 11, 2013
- E- Memorandum between Greenway staff and Mr. Hagen Aug. 23, 2012
- Survey Information re: Expansion of the Disc Golf Course Area
- Additional comments received via email re: Disc Golf Course Expansion and Bocce Ball Courts in the Greenway
- Greenway Technical Committee Staff Meeting Minutes April 9, 2013

Potential Disc Golf Course Site

Riverside Park

November 2011 - updated March 12, 2013

- Originally approved area
- - - - - Updated proposed area
- Track of flight for one hole and tee



1. New proposal will require the removal of vegetation to the left of the originally proposed area. This vegetation is mainly burdock and scrub.
2. Goal is to try design a fairway-style course so some vegetation can be restored to natural state. If that can not be done, will consider developing "oasis" areas of natural vegetation.
3. Track of one tee and basket would go over existing detention pond.



City of Grand Forks

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Website: www.greenwayggf.com Fax: (701) 787-3725

E – MEMORANDUM

To: Travis Hagen, President, Grand Forks Disc Golf Association
From: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist
Date: August 23, 2012
Subject: Proposed disc golf course in Riverside Park

Travis,

After we met on site yesterday, I went back to my office and reviewed the original proposal and decision from the city about the disc golf course in Riverside Park.

I have attached the map of the area that was agreed upon for the course. During the original proposal of the course, this map was shared with the Greenway Technical Committee, Greenway & Trail Users Group, city staff, Service & Safety Committee and citizens. It was posted on the Greenway website and public comment was taken for this layout.


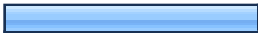
The course layout that we looked at yesterday is outside the boundaries of the original map, especially the first few baskets nearest the dam and the baskets located along the detention pond. The area of the proposed course has expanded beyond the original pals, so I need to take the new course layout to all of the committees and staff for consideration. They will want to consider how the changes to the course will affect other user groups and the maintenance of the area.

I realize that this will delay the installation of the course but each of these groups considered the impact the course would have on other user groups and the neighborhood. I am obligated to inform and receive consent from these groups for any changes to the original proposal. The very earliest that this item would be discussed by the first group would be September 12. I'm not sure when I can get it on the agenda for the Service & Safety Committee and whether or not they would require input from the neighborhood.



Let me know whether you would like to pursue the course you have mapped out or reconfigure the tees and baskets to meet the boundaries shown on the map.

You can give me a call or email if you have questions about this matter.



1. Do you support the expansion of the area for the disc golf course in Riverside Park?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		61.9%	13
No		38.1%	8
answered question			21
skipped question			2

2. Are you a resident of the Riverside Park area? This question is for evaluation purposes only. All survey responses will be recorded.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		95.7%	22
No		4.3%	1
answered question			23
skipped question			0

3. Do you play disc golf?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		13.0%	3
No		87.0%	20
answered question			23
skipped question			0



4. If yes, how often do you play?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Once a week		100.0%	3
Two to three times a week		0.0%	0
Four or more times a week		0.0%	0
answered question			3
skipped question			20

5. Which of these best describes your age?

		Response Percent	Response Count
10 - 18 years		0.0%	0
19 - 25 years		0.0%	0
26 - 35 years		13.0%	3
36 - 50 years		60.9%	14
51 - 65 years		26.1%	6
66+ years		0.0%	0
Prefer not to answer		0.0%	0
answered question			23
skipped question			0

6. What is your gender?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Female		56.5%	13
Male		43.5%	10
Prefer not to answer		0.0%	0
answered question			23
skipped question			0

7. Comments

	Response Count
	15
answered question	15
skipped question	8

Q7. Comments

1	Opposed to the entire project. Not necessary for the small park - will only disrupt nature elements.	Apr 3, 2013 10:25 AM
2	I am not sure if I am in favor of disc golf or not. I am all for folks using the Greenway and being active. Honestly, there is a concern with chemical use by froflfers in a park that, since the flood, has become a quiet, well-used park. Prior to the flood there was quite a bit of illegal activity and loud music in the park - I do not want to go back to this. The police were in the park a great deal. I hope they are quite present again to make sure that things stay safe and family-oriented. There is a good deal of wildlife in this area, particularly deer, which I think may be driven out by froflfers. Also, I am concerned about parking in the park. On warm summer days the pool gets quite busy and I am worried that parking will become a problem as froflfers compete for parking spots.	Mar 29, 2013 7:52 AM
3	As a resident of the Riverside Area within a block of Riverside Park, I would like to see a speed bump or other speed-reducing method(s) added to the 1st St entrance of the park, or somewhere along 1st St between Gateway and Conklin Ave. We find that there is not only more traffic during the peak summer months (as well as during winter skating), and that much of that traffic accelerates from Gateway all the way to the park entrance. Enhancing the disc golf course will most likely increase the number of users, which may result in more traffic along that route.	Mar 28, 2013 7:09 PM
4	I am opposed to the disc golf course and do not want to disturb the peaceful nature of Riverside Park. We already have a wonderful pool, we do not need any more amenities. Bird watchers and nature lovers enjoy the undisturbed greenway and this will affect that negatively. Plus on nice days the pool goers fill the parking lot and up and down the streets - where are the disc golfers going to park?	Mar 28, 2013 11:54 AM
5	Disc Golf has been placed in Lincoln Park, which has not been positive to that location. The traffic has made that park an undesirable place to go. Riverside Park is beautiful and has been a positive mark for the north end of town. There are SEVERAL children that swim at that pool, additional traffic will not make that a safe place for families to be. I truly think placing disc golf in that area would not be a good thing for the community.	Mar 28, 2013 8:56 AM
6	I support the disc golf course, but I worry that the proposed change will be too close to the trees and river for inexperienced golfers (similarly for the flight path over the pond). But that concern may be better addressed by the golfers creating the course, who have a better idea of the competence of inexperienced golfers. There should be some traffic control (stop sign or speed bump) on 1st St going into the park.	Mar 28, 2013 7:55 AM
7	I have played dic golf out west and did like it but have not played in GF, I do thin I would play with my Grandson if it was in Riverside.	Mar 28, 2013 7:25 AM
8	The more activities the better !!!! Riverside Park is underutilized with the exception being the pool.	Mar 28, 2013 6:44 AM
9	I am a Riverside Resident and am in support of this. There are a couple of things I would hope would go along with it, however. Increased signage in the Riverside Neighborhood for traffic control is desperately needed. With the	Mar 28, 2013 6:42 AM

Q7. Comments

exception of 3, all intersections in the neighborhood are unmarked. Traffic is at high speed on 1st going into the park. With the pool and a high concentration of children in this area, either a stop and/or yield on 1st (not on Conklin...this would just encourage increasing speed on 1st) would be of benefit. Also, a speed bump at the entrance to the park, similar to Lincoln, would be of benefit. Thank you for your consideration!

10	There have been some people who live in the Riverside Park area who have voiced concern about disc golf attracting undesirable people to the area. But I want to stand firmly in favor of having all of our parks open to all residents of Grand Forks. A wider variety of recreation activities on the Greenway benefits our entire community.	Mar 28, 2013 6:19 AM
11	In the summer I go to the park with my grandchildren and there have been times when I have seen undesirable people in the park. I feel the people playing disc golf will be younger people and why not give them another place to play as long as they are respectful to to others.	Mar 28, 2013 5:39 AM
12	I don't want the disk golf in the park at all.	Mar 28, 2013 4:12 AM
13	I feel it would be a nice addition to the park. The more activity in the park, the better.	Mar 27, 2013 8:00 PM
14	Can't wait for this activity to br back in Riverside.	Mar 27, 2013 7:31 PM
15	My main concern with the any disc golf proposal in Riverside is this will increase the traffic in/out of the park. Vehicles already drive way too fast on 1st street in and out of the park. There are a lot of children in the Riverside neighborhood and parents are scared to death to let their kids walk/bike across 1st as vehicles are going 30/40+ MPH at times on first between Gateway and the Park. Please put in a removable speed bump in/out of the park similar to what is on 13th at Lincoln and please make 1st and Conklin a 4-way stop, similar to the 4-way stop on Conklin and 3rd. 1st and Conklin is a very dangerous intersection for pedestrians.	Mar 27, 2013 7:30 PM

From: [Jon Strandell](#)

Sent: Monday, November 28, 2011 8:46 PM

To: Amyspicer@rocketmail.com ; angie@tvoc.org ; bburkett@greatinsight.com ; bburkett@greatinsight.com ; [Becky Bryan](mailto:BeckyBryan) ; bgangelhoff@gra.midco.net ; bobbiebloom@msn.com ; [Carly Endres](mailto:CarlyEndres) ; [Carol Sween](mailto:CarolSween) ; cclaurah@hotmail.com ; cjdemlow@gra.midco.net ; clrmom@aol.com ; cuhrich@clcmn.edu ; cynthia.culver@gmail.com ; debbyram@medicine.nodak.edu ; dkfoley@gra.midco.net ; dknauf@gra.midco.net ; genevieve_couture@live.com ; HStrandell@altru.org ; jbryan@bbibiofuels.com ; jbryan@bbibiofuels.com ; jclayburgh1@msn.com ; [Jennifer Spicer](mailto:JenniferSpicer) ; jfdmse@gra.midco.net ; [Jill Ford](mailto:JillFord) ; [Joe Ford](mailto:JoeFord) ; joni.mcenroe@email.und.edu ; joni.mcenroe@email.und.edu ; joy.mack@med.und.edu ; kalembke@yahoo.com ; kristiarndt@gmail.com ; kuseldinger@gra.midco.net ; [Lisa Spicer](mailto:LisaSpicer) ; lockwoods217@gra.midco.net ; lsprehe@gra.midco.net ; [Lynnette Greicar](mailto:LynnetteGreicar) ; mac@gra.midco.net ; mattressfactoryqf@hotmail.com ; mcsparrodc@msn.com ; mj63@gra.midco.net ; mriley@altru.org ; njspicer@gra.midco.net ; pgrinde@altru.org ; [Rhonda Sand](mailto:RhondaSand) ; RMurphy@altru.org ; scottl@nspack.com ; siouxdog@yahoo.com ; swendseid2@msn.com ; tbores@gra.midco.net ; teepeemm@gmail.com ; tom_owensndak@hotmail.com ; wiberry@gra.midco.net ; wlembke@yahoo.com ; wpburlog@q.com

Subject: Disc Golf

Neighbors,

Some of you may have seen on the news in recent weeks that there has been a request by a disc golf group in GF to expand opportunities for the activity in the city. Riverside Park has been discussed as a place where an additional course could be placed. I asked Melanie Parvey (Greenway Mgr for the City of GF) about this two weeks ago at one of our required meetings concerning Riverside Pool. She described the process an idea like this must go through before it became a reality and said that the location of the proposed course would be east of the pool.

She has since contacted me wondering if there had been any feedback from the neighborhood about this. So, I thought I would ask if any of you have thoughts/concerns about this. I can pass any feedback on to Melanie if you are alright with that. Please respond via email.

Thanks

Jon Strandell

Hi Jon. We have a small problem with having disc golf in Riverside Park - that being the potential for increased traffic. We were aware when we purchased this house that we would have to deal with traffic, but if disc golf gets added I think the traffic will get worse and potentially faster given the demographics of disc golf players. The speed with which people enter and exit the park is scary with small children, not only our own two boys, but also neighborhood kids on bikes (or on foot) going to and from the pool now having to deal with extra traffic of people running late for tee times. If I stand alone on this feeling than I digress, but would hope others may feel the same that there are potentially other options out there for adding value to Riverside Park.

We would prefer to see a nature trail in Riverside rather than frisbee golf. The nature trail could be an off shoot of the bike path with a bike rack for people to hook their bikes up to while they go on a hike. Our five year old LOVES to go on hikes in the park and nine times out of ten we see deer near that holding area - the excitement a child shows seeing nature first hand is good feeling and somewhat educational. I fear that a disc golf course would push the deer out of that habitat. Plus it is a lot cooler that we could all take our kids and a pair of binoculars up on the dike and see wildlife than seeing a bunch of people playing disc golf.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input in this discussion.

Sharon Bures
28 Conklin Ave

RE: Disc Golf
Joe Bryan

In general we would agree with this. Becky and I would not be very excited to see a disc golf course in the park. Right now I think riverside offers a nice family atmosphere. I don't want to say too much about the disc golf demographic, but I will say that it will add an element to the park we would not be happy with. The traffic would also be of concern to us.

I disagree as I ride the bike trail most nights and weekends and traffic in Riverside Park is almost nonexistent compared to Lincoln Park with the exception of pool patrons.

Park traffic equals usage and the more amenities offered, the greater the traffic will be.

We fought hard to get Riverside Park redone after the flood and I'd certainly hate to see a change in City and Park Board feelings that Riverside is underused and not worthy of additional amenities. I also believe the disc golf demographic concerns are a thing of the past as all types of people are involved over at Lincoln and it is very popular. I'm not into it but I see many, many people of all types and ages and it really seems to be a growing activity.

Just my thoughts, but we need usage in the Park and it is certainly very underutilized currently with exception to the great pool traffic.

Scott Lindgren

I also agree with the Bryan's and Bures'. Tom and Sharon's idea of a nature trail is a good idea. Our boys have enjoyed that area as well.

Kristina Lembke
Sent from my iPhone

I agree with Scott. I don't see hoards of traffic coming to Riverside Park due to disc golf! I do think, however, that it would attract some people...and isn't that what we want for the park? Wouldn't we want nature trails to attract people too? This is not an issue of wanting to keep the park private, to cut down on use or to design the park for the convenience of our neighborhood. After all, this is not just a park for the neighborhood, it needs to offer something for the entire city.

Deb Hanson

Everyone has good points . . . in the end however, we need to keep an open mind. It really is the community's park and we should welcome any activities that encourage and promote its use. I understand your concern about the traffic but boy, I sure love to see the park hopping on a warm summer day when the pool is full of kids. I also want to say, I know many kids that spend a lot of time playing disc golf and are very respectful of the rules . . . let's not be too hard on them.

Jill Ford

I agree. As we fight to keep our school, I think we need to encourage growth in our area at every turn. The more people that come to Riverside, the more people will see how wonderful it is! And although we too, love seeing the deer (although I do NOT like them in my GARDEN all summer) and enjoy the peace

of feeling like we almost live in the country, the truth is, we don't! The park is not just ours, but our community's. Although I understand the concern of the high traffic and speeds, I don't think the froflers will impact this all that much. It is often people cruising to the pool that are going too fast. Extra patrolling would be welcomed for that reason alone, as well as improved traffic signage.

Just my 2 cents. Have a great week everyone!

Maureen

Maureen Riley, MPT
Supervisor
Rehab Outpatient Therapy Services
Altru Rehabilitation Center
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Grand Forks, ND 58206-6002
Phone (701)780-2533
Fax (701)780-2328

Serge Gambucci doesn't have access to a computer, but wanted the following message relayed to everyone.

"We've lived and raised 7 children in Riverside Park. The same house, same location. Remodeling the Pool was one of the great improvements. It's bringing people back as well as good traffic. All a proven fact. Now there's talk of bringing back Frisbee Golf. We had it before the flood and it was a big success. I was very disappointed that we lost it. I told that to John Staley, Park Superintendent. He promised we'd get it back. Any activity will bring traffic with it. I've witnessed the pool traffic and also the golf traffic. These people are there to use the facilities and not a race track. Riverside Park took a bad rap when the park was closed, the pool was closed, etc. That's when bad traffic and bad actors took over. We had many activities for young and old before the flood. We had 4 soft ball fields also. During the softball tournaments, we'd draw about 2,000 people to watch the games and use the other facilities. Very much good traffic. I'm for any activity brought into the Park and it will bring in more good traffic. "

Serge Gambucci

223 Park Ave.

Grand Forks, ND 58203

I also believe that Frisbee golf returning to Riverside would be a positive thing. Our daughters are in high school and college and they enjoy going to the park for frofling with friends. The pool has proven very successful and has attracted many people to the Riverside neighborhood once again, and I think disc golf can do the same. The park seems big enough to handle disc golf while keeping the nature elements also. Prior to the extensive flooding of the recent past, Riverside Park was filled with activities for people of all ages. There were always people in the park enjoying year round events-Riverside was used by the entire community and it would be nice to see some of these events return. Thanks-have a great week!
Carol

Carol Sween

Grade 5
Kelly Elementary
Grand Forks, ND 58201
787-4374

I thought I would share with everyone, comments I sent directly to Jon, the evening he sent his email, requesting our thoughts.

Hi Jon - I had to go online to find out what Disc Golf is all about. Sounds interesting. I haven't seen any responses from anyone else in the neighborhood, but, maybe they have responded back to you individual - just as I am doing. Anyhow, I think it would be a great idea to bring something like that into Riverside. I don't understand why it would have to be located east of the pool, but, really doesn't matter, Melanie has a plan, and she would be the expert there. I do believe there would be a good bit of interest in Disc Golf by both adults and children, and it doesn't appear it would require an extra amount of work, as it relates to spring flooding. It would generate usage of the park and make it more viable, in yet another way, to the public. And - that is a good thing. If the City is looking for a location - I certainly would be supportive of having it located in Riverside Park and I am appreciative of the City's consideration to do so.

Thank you for getting this information out to the residents of the Park area - and hopefully, you have received a good number of responses. You do a great job representing our area and please know all your efforts are recognized and very much appreciated.

Happy Holidays to you and your family, if I don't see you before the Christmas Season.

DK (Diane Knauf)

**Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) Staff
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, April 9, 2013 – 10:30 AM
Grand Forks Park District Office – 1210 7th Ave. S, Grand Forks, ND**

Steve Mullally, Chair
Catherine Johnson, RRSRA
Bill Palmiscno, GF Park District

Dave Aker, EGF Parks & Rec
Kim Greendahl, City of GF
Karen Salwey, City of GF

I. Old Business

a. Special project request updates

- i. Bocce ball court:** Survey results are in with only 12 responses; 6 of which are in the neighborhood. There were some positive comments but no real passion about it. Details still need to be worked out regarding equipment rentals, length of field, portable or permanent courts and maintenance involved. Portable courts would be a smaller investment until we know how much use they will get. Tabled until Eliot returns for more discussion.
- ii. Disc golf course expansion in Riverside:** Survey results showed there is support for the expansion 13:8, but there are some concerns with traffic in the park. This is a valid request, and will be discussed with Streets to see if a speed bump can be added in the park. Mowing/Maintenance will also need to be expanded. Committee recommends we move ahead to allow for disc golf course expansion.
- iii. Greenway intern for 2013:** Aubrey Ellefson has been hired as intern for Summer 2013, and will be starting in May. Aubrey is a student at UND majoring in Leisure & Recreation Studies. Her duties will include setting up visual service for trails for the picture post project, work as camp ground security, promotions through Greenway via social media, work with disc golf and bocce courts among other things.

II. New Business

a. Special project request:

- i. Social media update - Kim** – Social media is rapidly becoming most popular form of communication. Kim submitted a snapshot of social media demographics noting the following information for each of the social media networks that the Greenway is using:
Website: Highest traffic with average of 335 visits per month. Most are generated from US, but new visitors are increasing from Canada. Good source of information about the Greenway.
Email: Currently sending messages to 1,500+ addresses – All City, County and Park District employees, along with residents that have signed up for updates.
Facebook: Majority of followers are female between the ages of 25-44. Posts are being shared with friends on followers on Facebook and they are actively checking into the page.
Twitter: Not as successful with only 7 followers at this time.
- ii. ND Trails Conference, June 18-19:** This is a State conference being held in Bismarck. Melanie will provide more information once the agenda comes out.
- iii. Flood updates:** Snow melt is going well. Slow. City is ramping up but on a wait-and-see pattern. If river ice melts quickly there is less ice damage to Greenway. Dave mentioned that at 42' they will be closing more campsites in the park.

I. **Greenway & Trail Users Advisory Group (GTUAG) update:** The GTUAG is currently working on the Green Lanes plan, to paint bike lanes in green. The City has applied for permission to do this. City is receptive. Federal Highway needs to approve and we can begin a pilot program in Grand Forks.

II. **Greenway Agency Updates:**

- a. **City of EGF:** Dave is hiring a maintenance person for the park, and is still trying to get 2 more positions hired for full staff. Pool will get a new motor and pump this summer, and there is \$1.5 million to be used in 2016 in conjunction with monies raised by Save The Pool.
- b. **GF Park District:** Bill commented they're just waiting for Spring – tables have been cleaned out of the park already and they are waiting on a decision for pool equipment. There will be an update after meeting on 4/12.
- c. **City of Grand Forks:** Kim commented that the City will be sending out postcards to address the increasing deer population along areas of the Greenway and Riverside Park areas. There have been reports that some residents are putting out feed for the animals and this will remind residents of the City Ordinance that prohibits this activity. Also, a group of runners had contacted Kim to organize a "30 Days of Running" competition that will promote the Greenway. More information will follow after meeting with this group next week. Mowing/Maintenance contracts have all been awarded.
- d. **MN DNR:** Campgrounds are flood ready – most work is done as part of the winterizing efforts in the fall. There is some minor work that may need to be done this Spring depending on how high the water will get.

III. **Other:** If anyone is interested in taking a very good class, Dave Lambeth's Birding Class is highly recommended.

IV. **Next Greenway Technical Committee meeting: Full Committee meeting May 14, 2013 at 10:30 am at Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South**

Submitted by: Karen Salwey, Public Works Sr. Administrative Specialist, City of Grand Forks

Supporting documents: Social Media Demographics snapshot, white-tailed deer postcard

Greenway Social Media Demographics Snapshot April 2013

Facebook

Demographics - Likes

68% female
27.5% female 25 – 34
16% female 35 – 44
11% male 25 -34

Reached

59% female
20.9% female 25 -34
14.9% male 35 – 44
13.4% female 35 – 44

Viral
Organic

Talking About

18% female 13 – 17
16.9% female 25 – 34
12.3% male 13 – 17

Checked In

18% female 13 – 17
16.9% female 18 – 24
10.6% female 25 – 34

Email Notices

Approximately 1,500 +/- addresses

Website

Average 335 visits per month
Average 1.46 minutes on the site
Average 3.14 page views per visit

Majority of visits are generated from US but 85% of new or unique visitors are from Canada.

- Could improve return visits

White-tailed deer and other wildlife are thrilling to see in the natural setting of the Greenway but feeding them causes them to return, and often in large numbers. Deer and other wildlife belong in the Greenway but not in our backyards and city streets.

The City of Grand Forks would like to remind residents living along or near the Greenway that the feeding deer within city limits, including the Greenway, is prohibited by City Ordinance #11-0219:

Feeding of deer prohibited. No person shall feed or allow the feeding of deer within the city limits of Grand Forks.

Q: What's the harm?

A: Feeding deer in urban areas increases the potential for unwanted interaction between humans and wildlife, often causing harm to the wildlife.

Questions or comments? Give us a call or send us an email:

(701) 738-8781

greenway@grandforksgov.com



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