

# Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Committee (BPGAC)

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 – 6:00PM  
Grand Forks City Hall, 255 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, room A101

## Meeting Notes

Jonathan Haug  
Paul Johnson  
Pat White, Ski & Bike Shop

Simon Murphy, Ski & Bike Shop  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF  
Christian Danielson, GF Engineering

### I. Bikeway & Pedestrian Items

- A. Shared-use path along Demers Avenue from South 12<sup>th</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South:** The engineering department is looking at repair and replacement on this section of the shared-use path system.
- B. Bike path overlay along the corner of South Columbia Road and 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South:** The pavement on this section is in rough shape. Plans are to overlay this section in 2021.
- C. University Ave Shared Use Path Update:** This project went to the GF Committee of the Whole to approve the Environmental Document. Of the four Council members present, this item's approval was split at two members moving to approve and two members moving to reject the staff recommendation. The primary reasons for two council people rejecting the recommendation were 1) residents had concerns about the proximity of the proposed path to their homes and 2) the opinion that the path would be of better use near the park on the south side of University Ave.

### II. Greenway Items

- A. Ski grooming proposal:** The discussion focused on four key areas: Grooming, sharing the trail, terrain, and signage.
  - 1. Grooming:** The consensus was that the current contractor is going a great job, but maybe grooming could be done more frequently. During a good snow year, the typical schedule is to groom on Thursday to prepare for the weekend and Monday to clean up after the weekend. Grooming is done once a week when there isn't enough snow. This is so the groomer doesn't damage the turf in the bare areas. Changes in the schedule changes are dictated by temperature, snow, or wind conditions. The weekly grooming this season has been sufficient for the current snow conditions. The warm temperatures and lack of snow this year haven't been great for grooming a ski trail.

Can the grooming be done later in the day when the snow might better?  
Kim will look into this idea.
  - 2. Terrain:** There is a lack of terrain variety and challenge on the current course from Lincoln Drive Park to 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Are there ways to

change that route to include hills and other terrain changes? The only hills in those areas are the levees, which might be a problem with flood protection system ordinances. Kim will look into this item. The other option is to remove trees and access slightly different terrain along the river. It is hard to remove trees to provide diverse terrain when Riverside Park could meet that need. The trail in Riverside Park might be a better option because it has more hills.

- 3. Sharing the trail with other users:** Sharing the trail with other greenway users is disappointing because they ruin the skate skiing flat track. The Riverside Dam to 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue South trail is groomed for one classic trail and one flat track. This was done to give non-skiers a place to recreate that would lessen the impact on the classic track, so those users are not breaking any rules. Designating a separate trail in a different area could be a solution to this problem.

The group viewed online photos from the trail cameras to see what types of activities other people are doing in the Greenway. The most common activity on the packed trail south of Lincoln Golf Course was walkers. Fat tire bike riders and skiers were about equal in occurrence.

- 4. Signage:** It is hard to police activities 24/7, but signs might help educate people on trail etiquette. Could signs designate some trails as ski only? It's possible, but the intent of the flat track is to give walkers, fat tire bike riders, and snowshoers an alternative to using the classic ski track. It would be a challenge to say that other greenway users would be restricted from using the packed trail when the track is groomed for that type of use.

There is a need for more signage on the trail. This is something a ski club could help install each season, as most signs will need to be portable. The permanent signs fade in the sign and need to be changed out frequently. A ski club could assist with this activity.

Jonathan would like to start a local ski club. That group could assist with signing the trails and expanding the trails to other facilities (Ray Richards Golf Course, etc.).

**Next Meeting date:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 6 PM at GF City Hall, 255 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, room A101

**Supporting documents:** Volunteer ski trail grooming proposal

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

# Taking our Nordic Ski Trails to the Next Level

Jonathan Haug, January 2020

Jonathan.haug@me.com



Kubota UTV with tracks \$27,000



West Yellowstone 84" Ginzugroomer \$9335



## Plan Oversight:

1. Personally purchase equipment  
(Possible Nordic Ski Club donations)
2. Augment current grooming
3. Eventually add additional ski trails.
4. No cost or risk to City/Greenway/or Parkboard

## Additional Equipment

### I will personally purchase:

1. Stored at my home adjacent to Lincoln Park (or in storage shed by Lincoln boat ramp or at Lincoln Golf Course work building)
2. Operated & Maintained by me.  
Future additional operators already being discussed.

(Future addition: West Yellowstone Roller \$2200)



(Potential trailer for transport to different grooming sites \$2500)



## Improved Grooming of Existing Trails:

I will touch up current grooming, providing 1-2 additional grooming/resurfacing weekly.

Before:



After:



## Morton Trail Service:

[www.mortontrails.com](http://www.mortontrails.com)

I have been in touch with John Morton, designer of over 100 Nordic ski trail systems throughout the USA and Europe. Amazing

insights offered that will improve our trail network.

- Skate Ski trail groomed wider.

- Utilize natural terrain of Greenway and Golf Courses to create varied ski routes including gentle curved turns, and maximizing rolling terrain for climbing/descending.

## Expanding Grooming for Additional Trails:

Lincoln Golf Course

### Future Expansion to Improve Access for Residents:

Ray Richards Golf Course

King's Walk Golf Course

## Future Sustainability:

1. Continue with current grooming contract, and this proposal is at **no cost**.
2. If I am not able to groom, or have equipment issues, the contracted groomer continues.
3. As I gain experience and add trails, I will recruit alternate groomers (already lined up).
4. If successful and I were to take over grooming completely, either Nordic Club donations or contract with Greenway would be considered. Additional equipment would be considered.

All I need is approval to proceed, gain experience grooming, and begin taking our Nordic ski trails to the next level!

Thank you very much for the consideration!  
Jonathan Haug