

# Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Committee (BPGAC)

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 – 6 PM

**NOTE DATE CHANGE**

GF City Hall, 255 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room A102

## Meeting Notes

Brendan Gilmore  
Tyson Gilmore  
Nelson Rosit  
Jerry Vanek  
Jill Levene  
Peggy Thurin  
Kevin Fire  
Tom Reitan  
Joan Abraham  
Richard O'Connor

Jane Croeker  
Scott Pearson, Pres. Red River Snowmobile Club  
Bruce Keifenheim  
Tricia Lunski, GF Councilperson  
Jamie Lunski  
Teri Kouba, MPO  
Carter Ueland, GF Engineering Dept.  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF  
Todd Feland, GF City Administrator

### I. Bikeway & Pedestrian Items

- A. **Bicycle & Pedestrian portion of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update:** The adoption process for the city councils was slowed down to accommodate changes to the goals and objectives. The goal is to have it available within the next month for public input. The new goals will reflect more education, encouragement, and data collection.
- B. **League of Cities Bicycle Friendly Community application update:** This is a renewal application with the potential to rise from the current bronze status to silver. The application was extensive and was a good exercise in identifying progress and gaps in the system. The 277 questions focused on the bikeway system, encouragement, equity, and environment. Community designations will be announced sometime in May.

### II. Greenway Items

- A. **Annual report review:** This will be posted on social media after the Greenway Technical Committee review next week.

### III. Other

- A. **LaFave plan:** This will be added to the agenda for March. Kim will invite Reid Huttunen from EGF Parks and Recreation to discuss the project.
- B. **Snowmobiles:** *This item was not on the original agenda, but many people in attendance wanted to discuss the matter.* The group was reminded that this meeting is a public input format, and no formal action will be taken on this matter. Any items discussed on this matter will be shared with the mayor and members of the city council.

Scott Pearson, president of the Red River Snowmobile Club, stated that the club is interested in safety and access to downtown. They believe that maintaining a designated snowmobile trail could make it safer for all users.

GF City Administer Todd Feland joined later in the meeting. He confirmed that the goal is to work through spring and summer to consider an expanded snowmobile route. The goal would be to build a group of stakeholders to represent a variety of viewpoints. The specifics of what that group will look like have yet to be determined.

**Discussion:**

**GF ordinance update:**

- The ordinance was changed in December to shift the final approval of a snowmobile route from the police chief to the mayor, with approval from the city council.

**Noise**

- The impact of noise with a snowmobile route through residential areas is a concern. A few attendees stated the snowmobile noise is bad near the 47th Avenue South area.
- Tampering with the exhaust on a snowmobile is illegal in MN.
- The physics of noise is complicated. A decibel test was done in the Greenway earlier this winter. The results were included in a presentation to the city council. Was the sound level test measured from the trail to a house or an open area as the snowmobile passed the meter?
- Exposure and distance also impact noise levels. The noise at Almonte Street would be 16x louder than downtown.
- Did it also include acceleration, which increases the noise level, or was it just riding 15 mph?
- Will people ride the entire Greenway at 15 mph, or will they need to speed up occasionally?

**Enforcement**

- Police patrol isn't being done now; how will that change if a route is approved?

**Routes, both current and potential**

- There are concerns about the proposed snowmobile crossing at the outfall south of Lincoln Drive Park. (See attached map) The distance isn't scalable by snowshoe or atv, and the drop-off is deep. There is also a potential for water in the outlet at time. The only other way to get from Lincoln Drive Park to Lincoln Golf Course is to share the groomed ski/walk/bike trail that parallels the paved trail. Is this too close to the sledding hill?
- What other options are there for getting through or around GF? Could the English Coulee Diversion be used as a north-south route? Riverside Park off trails.
- Off-trail riding is already a problem on the current route. There are multiple snowmobile tracks in Riverside Park and downtown. Riders are not staying on the designated trail and are using the sides of the levees. How will more trails make that better?
- How will potential trail crossings be marked to warn riders to stop and alert other users to the situation?
- Conflict with people using the ski/walk/bike trail is a concern.

- The state snowmobile website shows the Alberta Clipper Loop west and north of GF, but the club does not groom that trail. Could that be an alternative to going through GF?
- Is the expectation that people will trailer their snowmobile to a drop-off point? If so, there may need to be more drop-off points. What about people who live in GF and EGF and just drive over the levees instead of trailering to a drop-off point?
- Who is this proposal serving? Will it change how people ride snowmobiles on the levees and ski trails now?
- Can the rivers be designated as routes? Other communities, like Warroad, designate trails on the river.
- Could users share trails on alternate days? How would that be enforced?

#### **Flood protection**

- Riders are already riding over and on the levee. How does that impact the integrity of the levee?

#### **Ordinances**

- The current greenway ordinance does not allow motorized vehicles. Would this change allow atv's someday?

#### **Stakeholders**

- Representatives from the city of EGF and the MN DNR have expressed interest in participating in these meetings.
- Can you clarify the stakeholder's agenda? Is it to map a trail or something else? Is the objective to reach a mutual conclusion?
- How will all users and nearby residents be engaged in the process? This could start with a goal, but that could change with discussion.

#### **Misc**

- There have been problems with snowmobile riders confronting skiers and walkers in the Greenway. How will that change? How do you keep the users separated?

**Next Meeting date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 6 PM at GF City Hall, 255 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, room A102

**Next Greenway Technical Committee meeting:** 10 AM Tuesday, March 21, 2023, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club meeting room.

**Supporting documents:** 2022 Annual Report

Map – stormwater outfall south of Lincoln Drive Park

# 2022 GREENWAY ANNUAL REPORT

## Celebrating 25 YEARS

and looking forward to many more...

It's hard to imagine now, but there was a time when the Red and Red Lake Rivers weren't considered the community assets they are today. Frequent flooding, an unkept riverbank, and limited public access meant many residents didn't see the true potential of the rivers.

You've probably heard the story - The winter of 1996- 1997 brought nine blizzards, brutally low temperatures, eight times the average snowfall, and a spring ice storm combined to produce historic flooding throughout the Red River Valley. Hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, and over 90% of the Greater GF residents were evacuated. But from those dark days emerged a brighter future for both communities with the construction of a permanent flood protection system and greenway.

The Greenway has come a long way since the spring of 1997. Not only does this award-winning facility protect the Greater GF community from floodwater, but it also provides a public space for outdoor recreation and community events. Restoration projects along the rivers have created habitats for wildlife while improving bank stabilization.

It's been a busy 25 years, and The Greenway continues to evolve to the community's needs. We look forward to what the future brings!

### Fast Facts

*Since 1997, The  
Greenway has:*



Increased public park space by  
500% in EGF and 100% in GF



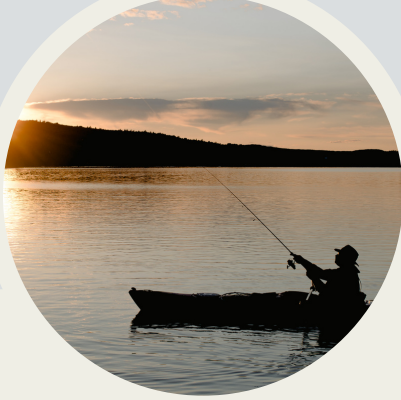
Added 20 miles of paved  
shared-use paths



Restored riverbank vegetation  
has created habitat for wildlife



# 2022 GREENWAY ANNUAL REPORT



## LAFAVE PARK IS GETTING A FACELIFT!

A new canoe and kayak launching dock was just the beginning. East Grand Forks has been awarded a 75% matching grant from Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails for improvements at LaFave Park. The total project cost is expected to be \$1.21 Million, with \$870,580 being funded by the MN DNR Legacy Fund. The remaining \$342,996 (28% of the total project cost) will be paid by the City of EGF. Upgrades are scheduled for a new (and additional) boat ramp, road access, and parking lot improvements. Construction could begin as early as 2024.



## POOL DAYS ARE COOL DAYS

What better way to cool off on a hot summer day than taking a splash in Sherlock or Riverside Pool? The lifeguard shortage impacted hours of operation, but plenty of swimmers still dove into summer fun at the pool.

### By the numbers:

- Sherlock Pool: 19,334
- Riverside Pool: 5,440 (delayed season opener)



## WHO'S UP FOR 'SMORE CAMPING?

Another great season for the Red River State Recreation Campground. Canadian campers were back after a three-year hiatus, and we were glad to see them! Flooding delayed the campground opening by almost one month, but 8,944 campsites rented for 2022 season!



# 2022 GREENWAY ANNUAL REPORT



## WE THINK YOU'LL GET A "KICK" OUT OF THIS

There's a new game in town, and we think you're going to like it. A combination foot and disc golf course was installed in Riverside Park in the fall of 2022. Both activities share the same course but separate "baskets." The course is for beginner players and all it takes to play is a disc or ball large enough to kick.

## WOOD DUCK BOXES

Many thanks to MN DNR Park Ranger Catherine Johnson and her volunteers for finding, cleaning, and marking 38 wood duck boxes in the Greenway. The database they created will help monitor the maintenance needs and nesting patterns of our feathered friends.



## A GIFT WE ALL CAN USE

Cross-country skis, snowshoes, skates, and sleds are now available at the Riverside Park warming house! This equipment is available during warming house hours and is free to use. This equipment was made possible by the generosity of donors to the Greenway and Environment Endowment Fund.

## THIS PLACE IS FOR THE BIRDS & BEES

Literally. Butterflies, bees, and other insect friends will enjoy the new pollinator garden planted at the Red River State Recreation Campground. The first annual Parks for Pollinators was a joint project between the Dakota Science Center and the MN Department of Natural Resources.





# KEEP IN TOUCH!

## **The Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway Advisory Group**

Second Tuesday of the month (except July)  
6 PM @ GF City Hall  
255 North 4th Street, Room A102  
Open to all GGF residents

## **The Greenway Technical Committee**

10 AM on the third Tuesday of the month  
bimonthly (January, March, May, July,  
September, and November)  
ICON Sports Center  
1060 47th Avenue South  
in the Blue Line Club meeting room

Open to all GGF residents

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