

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Committee (BPGAC)

Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 – 6:00PM

Grand Forks City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, room A102

Meeting Notes

Jane Croeker
Richard O'Connor
Bob Shepard
Jonathan Haug
Kevin Moore
Nelson Rosit
Sam Wagener

Jodi Sherman
Brendan Gilmore
Larry Hagen, Turtle River State Park
Stephanie Halford, Chair, GF Planning
Christian Danielson, GF Engineering
Kim Greendahl, GF Greenway

I. Bikeway & Pedestrian Items

a. Upcoming Multiuse Path Projects

- i. **Cherry Street – Westside from 58th Avenue South to 61st Avenue South:** A shared-used trail is planned for installation in 2021.
- ii. **South Columbia Road & South 62nd Street:** An asphalt overlay is planned for 2021 on an approximately 0.8-mile section of shared-use trail at this intersection.
- iii. **South Columbia Road (40th Avenue South to 47th Avenue South):** A new concrete shared-use path will be installed this season.

- b. **Bicycle Friendly Application:** The application process will be opening up again later this year. Greater Grand Forks has applied twice and received a bronze designation both times. Stephanie would like to start work on the application soon with hopes of raising our designation to Silver or Gold. She will involve members of this group in that process.

II. Greenway Items

- a. **Wild Cucumber vine information:** As a follow-up from the meeting last month, Kim contacted NDSU Extension about doing a controlled burn to eliminate this vine. Their opinion was that only oak and fir trees could withstand the heat, and any other tree would be damaged in the process. The decision is to host two volunteer events to pull the vines out of the trees and dispose of them. Details of these events will be sent out via social media at a later date.
- b. **CD³ Watercraft cleaning station:** The ND Game & Fish Department has donated a unit to clean watercraft after leaving the river. Zebra Mussels have been found in the Red River, and washing watercraft can prevent spreading to

other water bodies. The unit will be installed at the north boat ramp, north of Riverside Dam.

- c. **River access project at Kannowski Park:** Signs were installed in the parking lot and on the trail last fall. A welcome and directional sign will be installed at the entrance to the access area later this spring.
- d. **Cottonwood removal and river access project downtown:** Several cottonwood and other trees have died in an area near the floating dock and boathouse area. They are still leafing out but will need to be removed before they fall and cause damage or injury. Losing the trees will affect erosion and stability to the trail, so Kim is working with an engineering firm to design something that stabilizes the riverbank area and offers better river access.
- e. **Riprap project at Riverside Dam:** A cleanup project will be done in the riprap near the dam to remove the saplings growing through the rocks. The US Army Corps of Engineers does not allow vegetation in riprap and it is a demerit on their annual assessment. Long range plans would be to add features that make the riverbank more accessible to users. Accessing the river over the riprap is challenging.
- f. **Greenway Overlay EGF and GF:** The section between the south pedestrian bridge and near Eagles Point are scheduled for an overlay this season.
- g. **Cross-country ski sign discussion:**
 - i. **Routes:** Discussion for three separate routes – classic, skate & walk and bike. Things to consider would be if the current trail is wide enough for 3 lanes. One suggestion was to cut another trail for the fat tire bike riders because they don't need a very wide trail.

Could a route be added through The Loop disc golf course? Possibly, but then where do the snowshoers go? There are snowshoes available at the warming house and it doesn't make sense to shoes and then not give them a place to use them. Signage directing them away from the ski area and to The Loop might alleviate some of that problem.
 - ii. **Signs:** Representatives from the GF Nordic Ski Club presented a sign for consideration along the trail. There was concern in the group that the sign had a lot of information and might be confusing. Can something simpler be designed? Something like "Walk the pack, not the track." Kim will look into some sign options.

III. Other:

- a. The pedestrian crossing signal on the SW corner of University Avenue and North Washington Street does not work. Christian will look into this item.
- b. Underpass project at Discovery Elementary: There is not enough right-of-way available to construct an underpass.

- c. Kennedy Bridge access from Greenway: Where is the access point? At the bench on the north side of the Kennedy Bridge. Kim will have a sign installed to indicate the connection to the bridge.
- d. Unpaved trails and motor vehicles in EGF: This is still a problem but EGF is working on a plan to install barricades and signs to block motor vehicle access.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 14th, 2021, 6PM at GF City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, room A102

Supporting Documents:

- Wild Cucumber vine information
- Communication with NDSU Extension office
- CD3 Watercraft cleaning station
- River access project at Kannowski Park
- Cottonwood removal and river access project downtown
- Riprap project at Riverside Dam

Submitted by: Stephanie Halford
 Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist

August 12, 2020

Wild cucumber <<https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=ECLO>>

(*Echinocystis lobata*) is a native, annual vine with hand-sized, star-shaped leaves, found throughout much of the United States and all of Minnesota. In early to mid-August, very conspicuous small white flowers on long stalks grow skyward, making this vine go from an unnoticeable background plant to a very conspicuous large vine.

It's often very noticeable along roadsides, forest edges, hedgerows and fences. The fruit is a small, cucumber-like spiny pod. It more closely resembles a very small spiky watermelon. When the seed pod is fully mature it will explode when touched, ejecting the seeds. Check out this slow-motion video: [Exploding cucumbers!](https://youtu.be/wOIHzl2h9a8?t=120)
<<https://youtu.be/wOIHzl2h9a8?t=120>>

As a native it's generally considered non-problematic, although if it's growing on your garden, tree or fencerow you may view it as a weed.

Hand-pulling is the best option for removal. Foliar herbicides are not recommended because they are likely to negatively impact nearby vegetation, such as the plants the vine is growing on.

If you hand pull before flower and seed production you'll likely to have less wild cucumber the following year.



<<https://extension.umn.edu/sites/extension.umn.edu>>

The wild cucumber fruit is a small, spiny pod.

Quick identification guide for wild cucumber

Found in:

- Moist rich soil in areas such as woodland edges, landscapes and thickets.

Characteristics:

- Creeping or climbing annual vine that grows to 25 feet.
- Twining stems are often grooved and angled.
- Bright green plants climb on surrounding vegetation.
- Leaves are Maple leaf-shaped and sandpapery with a heart-shaped base.
- Long, curly, branched tendril is opposite the leaf.
- Flowers are white to greenish-yellow or yellowish-green.
- Fruit is covered with sharp spines and contains 4 seeds.

Watch this video from WCCO News <<https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2018/08/21/good-question-wild-cucumber/>> that aired in August 2018.

Angie Gupta is an Extension educator with a focus on forest invasive species and private forest land management.

RE: Plant question

Knutson, Carrie <carrie.knutson@ndsu.edu>

Mon 3/1/2021 7:23 AM

To: Greendahl, Kim <KGreendahl@grandforksgov.com>

Good Morning Kim,

I did contact the SCD and their thoughts were similar to Joes.

Carrie

From: Greendahl, Kim <KGreendahl@grandforksgov.com>

Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 3:37 PM

To: Knutson, Carrie <carrie.knutson@ndsu.edu>

Subject: Re: Plant ques on

Thanks for the great information, Carrie. I will also contact SCD to get their thoughts, but I think my question has been answered - burning is probably not the answer for the entire greenway.

Have a great weekend!

Kim Greendahl - Greenway Specialist - City of Grand Forks - P.O. Box 5200 - Grand Forks, ND 58206--5200 - Phone: (701) 738-8746 - e-mail: kgreendahl@grandforksgov.com

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From: Knutson, Carrie <carrie.knutson@ndsu.edu>

Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 9:48 AM

To: Greendahl, Kim <KGreendahl@grandforksgov.com>

Subject: RE: Plant question

Good Morning Kim,

I contacted Joe, our Extension Forester, to get his thoughts on controlled burns and trees.

Here is his response-

"Each species has its own level of fire resistance or fire tolerance, and quite simply it mostly depends on the thickness of the bark. But oak is relatively fire tolerant. Most of the other deciduous trees aren't very fire tolerant.

Choosing the burning conditions can also help to minimize problems – burn on cool days, when trees are dormant, and burning with a backfire are all things that will keep a fire 'cool'. Also, the amount of heat that's released in a fire is related to the amount of fuel burned. The more fuel, the hotter the fire. Therefore, burning when fuel loads are relatively low will also keep temperatures relatively low."

I did some research as well. Controlled burns are mostly done in Pine and Oak forests, tree that can tolerate the fire..

There really isn't much information for trees in our area. I will also reach out to the SCD and see if they have any information.

Have a great day!

Carrie

CARRIE KNUTSON, M.S.

Extension Agent / NDSU Extension Grand Forks County

151 S. 4th St. S302 / Grand Forks, ND 58201-4715

p: 701-780-8229 / f: 701-780-8309

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/grandforkscountyextension/>

From: Greendahl, Kim <KGreendahl@grandforksgov.com>


Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:31 AM

To: Knutson, Carrie <carrie.knutson@ndsu.edu>

Subject: Re: Plant question

Thanks Carrie. I'm not sure if I asked you this before or not: can a controlled burn be done without harming the trees too?

Kim Greendahl - Greenway Specialist - City of Grand Forks - P.O. Box 5200 - Grand Forks, ND 58206--5200 - Phone: (701) 738-8746 - e-mail: kgreendahl@grandforksgov.com

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From: Knutson, Carrie <carrie.knutson@ndsu.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 7:22 AM
To: Greendahl, Kim <KGreendahl@grandforksgov.com>
Subject: RE: Plant ques on

Good Morning Kim,

Yes, you are correct it is wild cucumber.

I has really exploded in our area over the past few years, really noticeable along coulees and in yards.

It is an annual. The best control is to cut the plants at the roots and/or work up the plants when they are young. It is hard to control with chemicals because of its close proximity to other vegetation.

Here is a link with more information on the plant. <https://extension.umn.edu/natural-resources-news/wild-cucumber-vine-growing-all-over>

Take care,

Carrie

From: Greendahl, Kim <KGreendahl@grandforksgov.com>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 3:34 PM
To: Knutson, Carrie <carrie.knutson@ndsu.edu>
Subject: Plant ques on

Hey Carrie. I hope all is well with you.

I have a plant question that I hope you can point me in the right direction to address. I believe it is called wild cucumber and it's a vine that was everywhere in the Greenway this summer. I don't have a photo of the prickly pods, but below is what the vine looks like. Do you have any ideas on how to get rid of it before it crushes more trees.

Any ideas?



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Waterless Cleaning Systems

Available Models

Clean. Drain. Dry. Dispose. CD³ Systems use behavioral science to empower the public to increase compliance with invasive species rules and regulations.

CD³ Station

Grid-connected, for unlimited use. Tools include wet/dry vacuum, air blower, tethered hand tools and LED lights. Unit has concrete base with 220 volt, 30 amp service required.



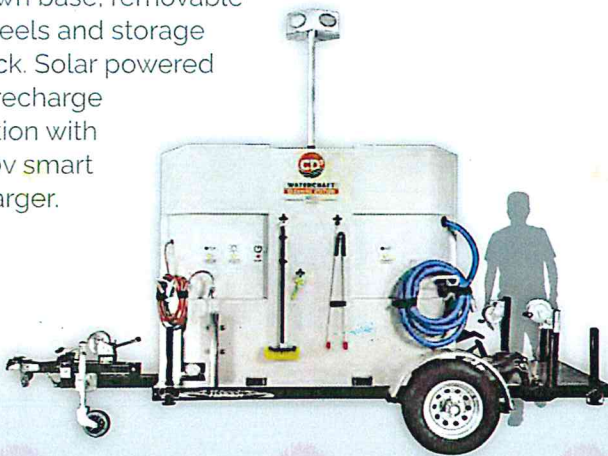
CD³ Wayside Solar

Solar powered for sites with roughly 100 boat visits per day. Fast install option is available with precast base.



CD³ Mobile Trailer

Mobile unit with ratchet down base, removable wheels and storage deck. Solar powered or recharge option with 120v smart charger.



CD³ Roadside/CD³ Outpost

Either unit is best suited for smaller or overflow launch areas. Both include tethered hand tools on lockable reels. Each comes with installation instructions and multiple mounting options.

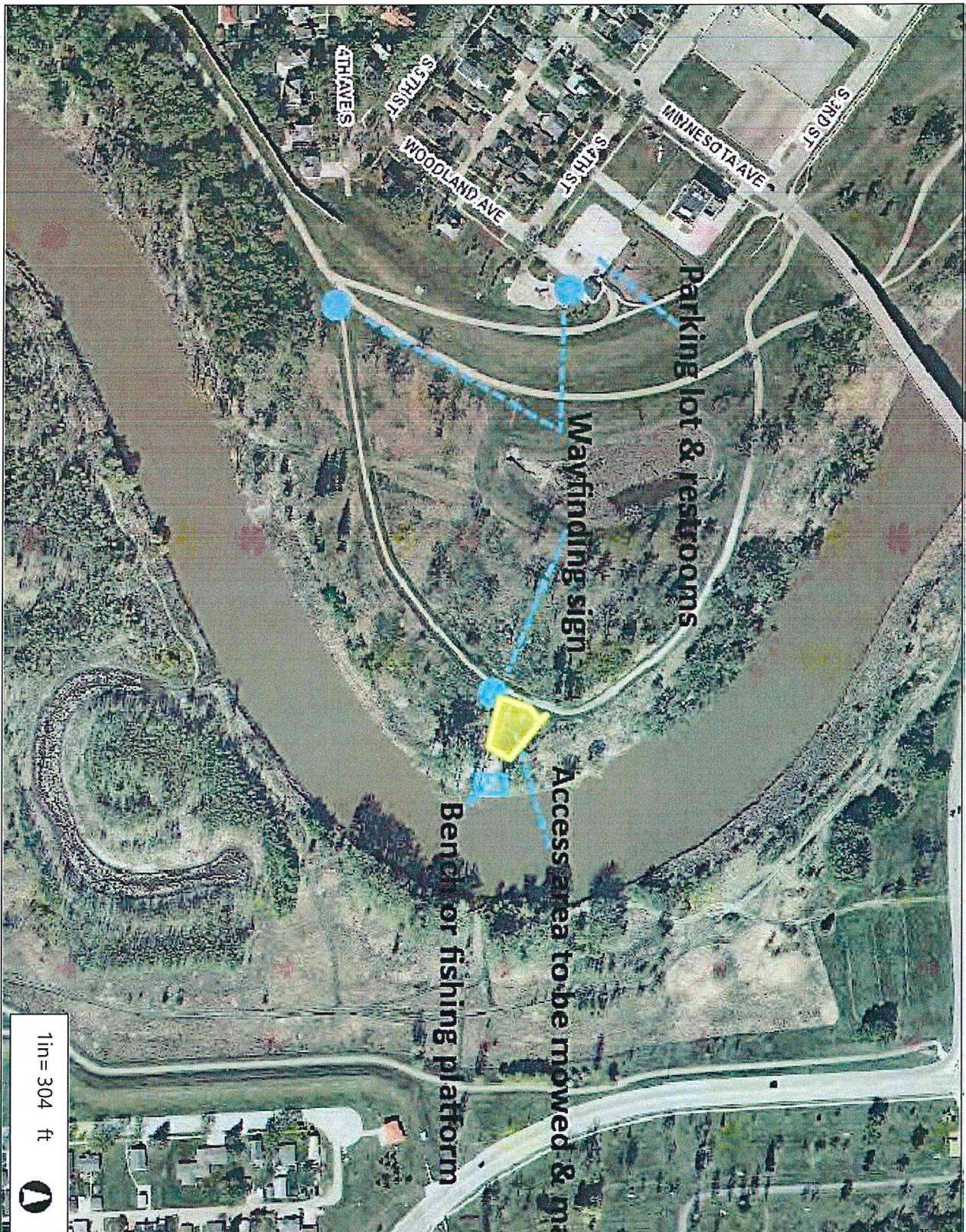


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Shorebank fishing access @ Kannowski Park, GF



Legend

Address Labels
Road Labels

Notes

Includes wayfinding signs, clearing access of vegetation, and a bench or fishing platform.
Distance from parking lot approx. 1/4 mile.

607.4 0 303.69 607.4 Feet
NAD_1983_StatePlane_North_Dakota_North_FIPS_3301_Feet
City of Grand Forks GIS

All dimensions, descriptions, measurements, boundaries and data contained in this nonstandard document are included for general information only. No warranties or covenants are made or given by the City of Grand Forks. Any user must confirm the accuracy of the same with official records, and/or by survey.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Cottonwood removal & riverbank access project



1in = 152 ft



Legend

- Address Labels
- Road Labels
- Boundary City Limit
- Boundary Gray Area
- Boundary Two Mile

Notes

NAD_1983_StatePlane_North_Dakota_North_FPS_3301_Feet
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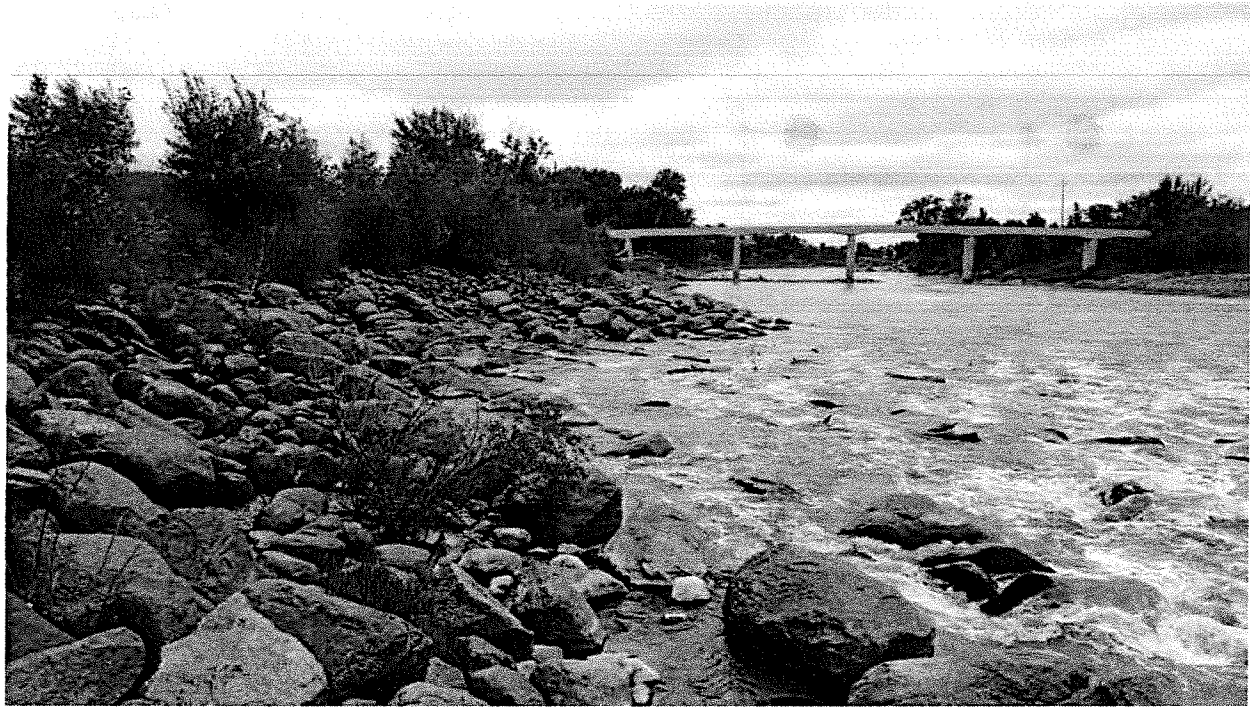
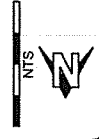


Photo 2 – Left Bank Downstream Looking Downstream



Photo 3 – Left Bank Downstream Looking Across



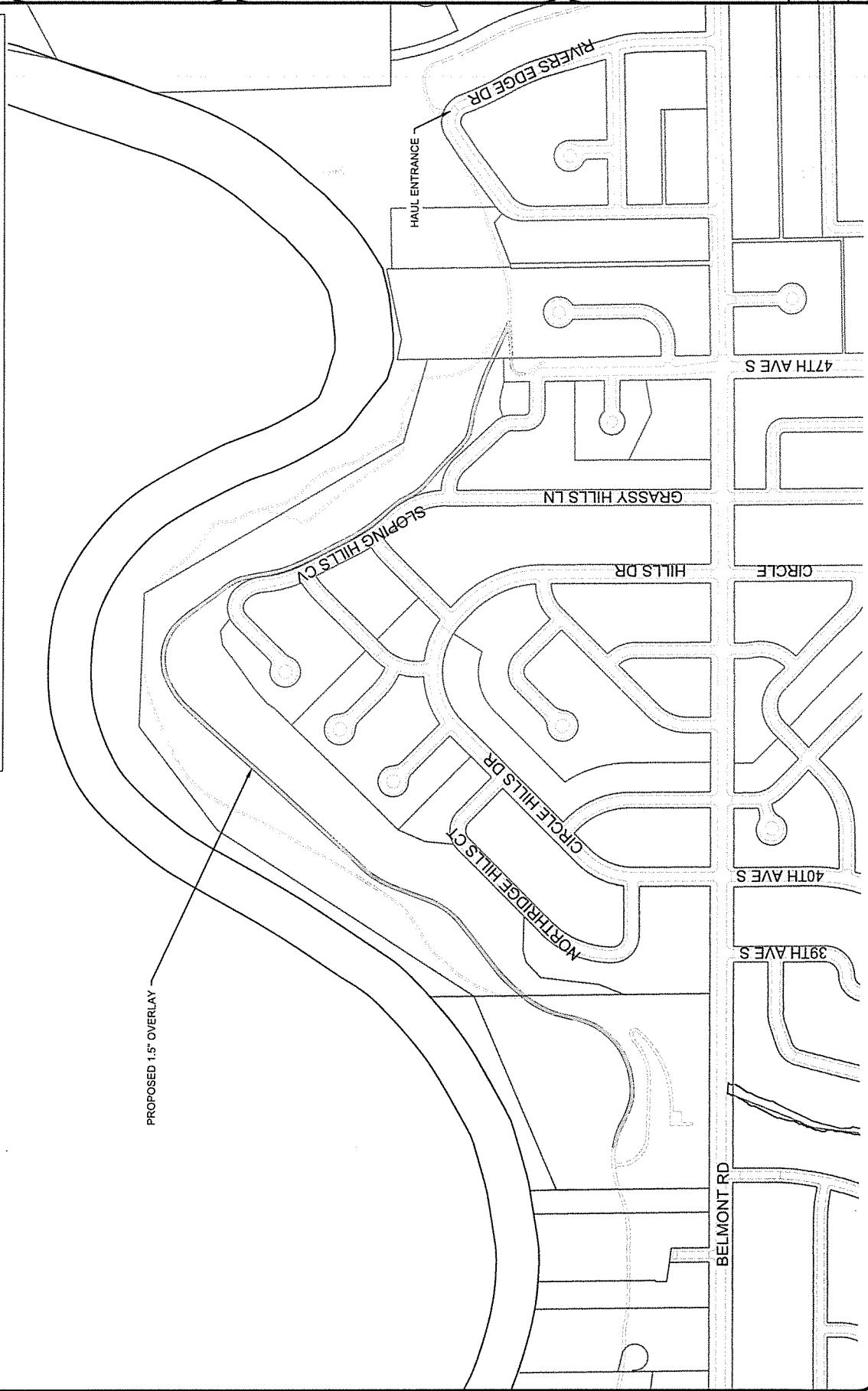
2021 GREENWAY REHABILITATION
PROJECT OVERVIEW

DESIGNED BY	LJL	VERT. DATUM	NAVD 88
DRAWN BY	LJL	PROJECT NO.	8313
SHEET NO. 8			

PROJECT NOTES:

1. PROJECT CONSISTS OF MILLING & OVERLAYING HOT MIX ASPHALT AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS.
2. TYPE OF REPAIRS, LOCATION, & REMOVAL LIMITS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY ENGINEER IN THE FIELD.

THE LOCATIONS OF EXISTING UTILITIES ARE SHOWN IN AN APPROXIMATE WAY ONLY. NOT ALL EXISTING UTILITIES WILL BE SHOWN. THE EXACT LOCATION OF ALL EXISTING UTILITIES BEFORE COMMENCING WORK AND SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING ALL UTILITIES OR REPAIRING ANY DAMAGE WHICH OCCURS BECAUSE OF THE CONTRACTORS FAILURE TO EXACTLY LOCATE AND PRESERVE ANY AND ALL EXISTING UTILITIES.



PROPOSED 1.5" OVERLAY

HAUL ENTRANCE

2/9/2021 4:21 PM

S:\3131 2021 Greenway Rehabilitation\Design\8313 Plan.dwg



Greenway Cross-County Ski Sign Planning Worksheet

Trail Entry Points, north to south

Riverside Dam	Lincoln Drive Park*
Riverside Park	Elmwood Access/32 nd Avenue South
7 th Avenue North	Sunbeam Trailhead
Downtown on DeMers Avenue	47 th Avenue South
Kannowski Park	

*Central entrance point shared with other facilities

Types of signs

Informational for entrance points

Welcome

Trail etiquette

Other

Trail marker

Intermittently along trail

Trail intersections

Other

Sign composition

Metal

Plastic

Installation type

Free standing

In-ground