

**Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Committee  
(BPGAC) Wednesday, May 11, 2022 – 6 PM  
Grand Forks City Hall, 255 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, room A102**

## **Meeting Notes**

Richard O'Connor  
Erik Fritzell  
Teri Kouba, MPO  
Nelson Rosit  
Ben Johnson  
Brendan Gilmore

Tyson Gilmore  
Jane Croeker  
Meghan Arbegast, GF Herald  
Christian Danielson, GF engineering  
Dave Lambeth  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

### **I. Bikeway & Pedestrian Items**

- A. Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan:** The consultant hired to develop this piece of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is gathering data that will be used to frame the update and review process. The steering committee meetings have not been scheduled yet but should be happening later this summer. Teri was able to find enough people to fill the at-large positions. Similar work is also being done for the other two pieces of the LRTP.

### **II. Greenway Items**

- A. Flood cleanup:** Cleanup has been delayed again because of the fluctuations in the river levels. The contractor and staff have been told to “clean what they can, when they can” in preparation for mowing. Cleaning the larger objects and scraping trails may take some time because the ground needs to dry out enough to support the heavy equipment.

### **III. Other**

- A. English Coulee projects:** For the past few years, the city of GF has been working with several partners on several projects along the English Coulee. The projects have focused on removing invasive vegetation, improving aesthetic value, tracking water quality, and flow.

#### **Vegetation and aesthetic projects**

##### **Native plantings along coulee banks between 24<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South**

- Partnership between Audubon Dakota, GF Park District, and city of GF
- Started in 2018

##### **Native plantings along coulee banks between University and Gateway Avenues**

- Partnership between Audubon Dakota, University of ND, and city of GF
- First step is the removal of buckthorn trees along coulee banks
- Scheduled to begin in 2022 pending agreement completion

##### **Water quality projects**

- Collect data on water quality, sediment levels, and how water levels respond to rainfall events.
- City of GF hired Advanced Engineering & Environmental to collect data

- Collect data on sediment quality analysis and hydrologic and hydraulic modeling
- City of GF hired Advanced Engineering & Environmental to collect data
- Report expected in late 2022 or early 2023

#### **Japanese Pond in Sertoma Park**

- The GF Park District is working with Industrial Processing Solutions, Inc.
- Using BioPod product, a chemical-free alternative to labor-intensive mechanical dredging. to reduce the amount of sludge on the bottom of the pond, improve water quality, and reduce odor

Reports and updates on these projects are available online on the city's website [www.grandforksgov.com](http://www.grandforksgov.com).

**B. Missing bike racks on DeMers Avenue:** Why were the bike racks on the 400 block of DeMers Avenue removed? Kim will look into this item.

**Next Meeting date:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 6 PM at GF City Hall, 255 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, room A102

**Supporting documents:** English Coulee Renewal Plan Phase 1 report March 2022

# ENGLISH COULEE RENEWAL PHASE 1

## Water Quality & Channel Improvement Analysis

March 7, 2022



Summary of Public Outreach, Data  
Collection, and Preliminary Analysis  
for this Important Community Asset!



# Issues with English Coulee Water Quality

Algae / Nutrients



Debris / Sediment



Overgrown / Invasive Vegetation



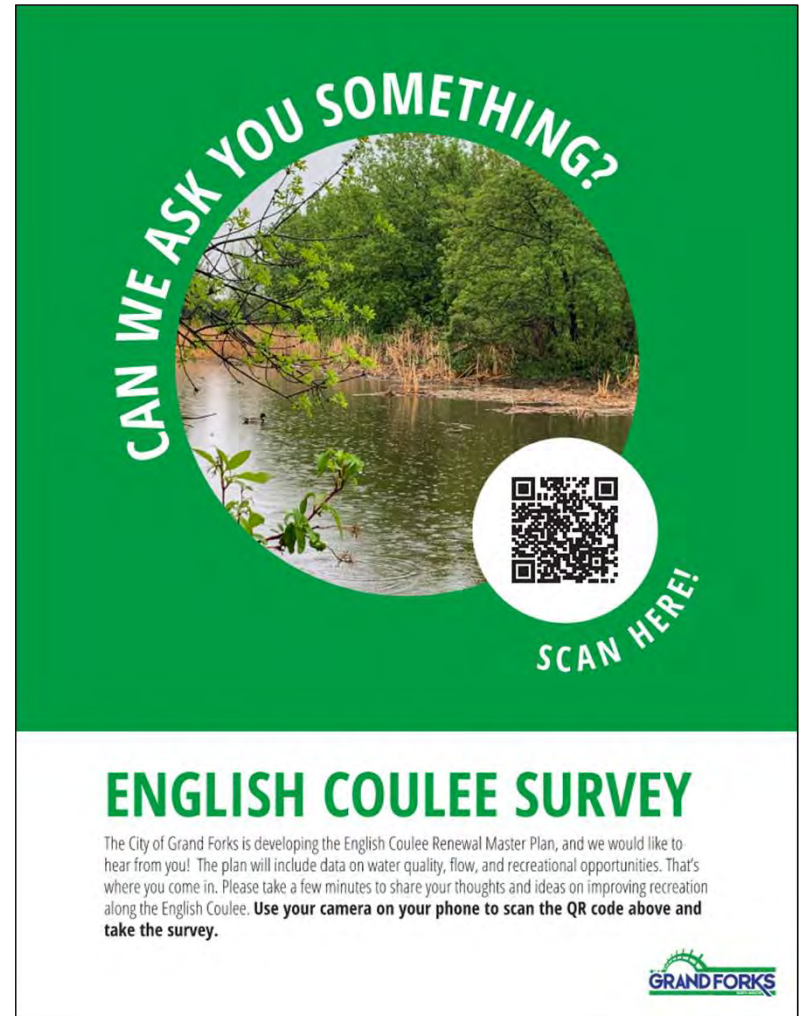
Stagnant water





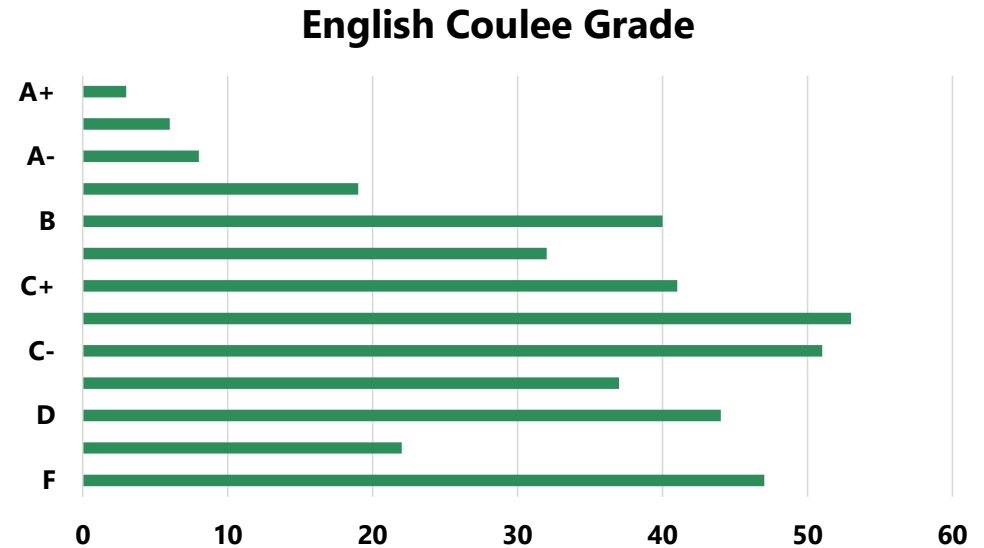
# Phase 1 Goals

1. Gauge the community's interest in improving the coulee

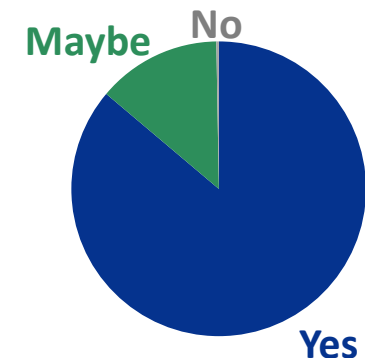


# Phase 1 Outcomes

1. Public agrees water quality is poor and has significant interest in seeing improvements to the coulee



Do you support English Coulee improvements?



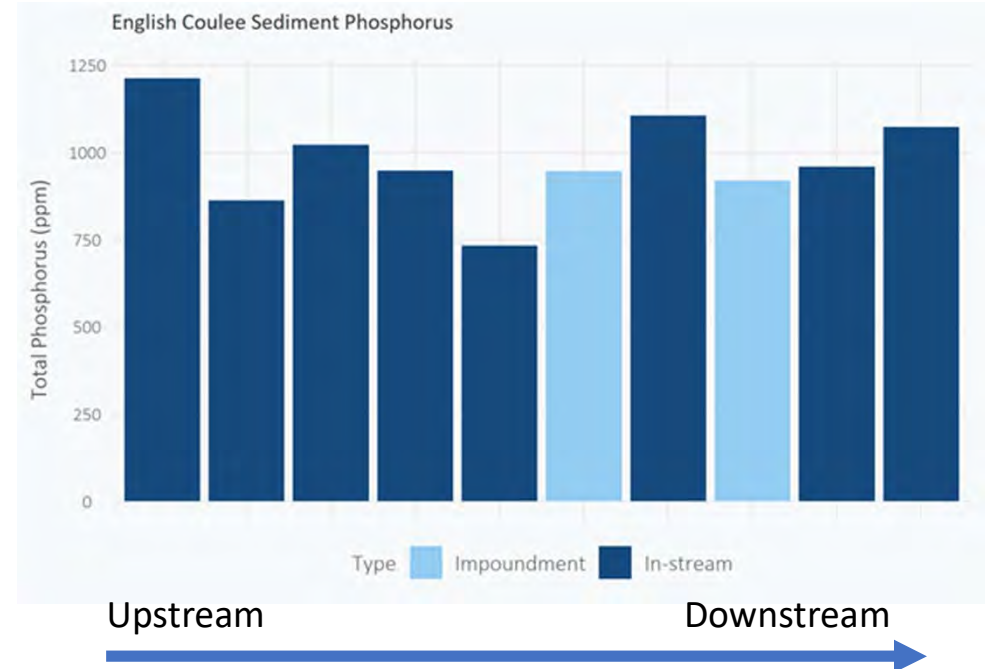
# Phase 1 Goals

1. Gauge the community's interest in improving the coulee
2. Understand the magnitude and likely causes of the water quality issues



# Phase 1 Outcomes

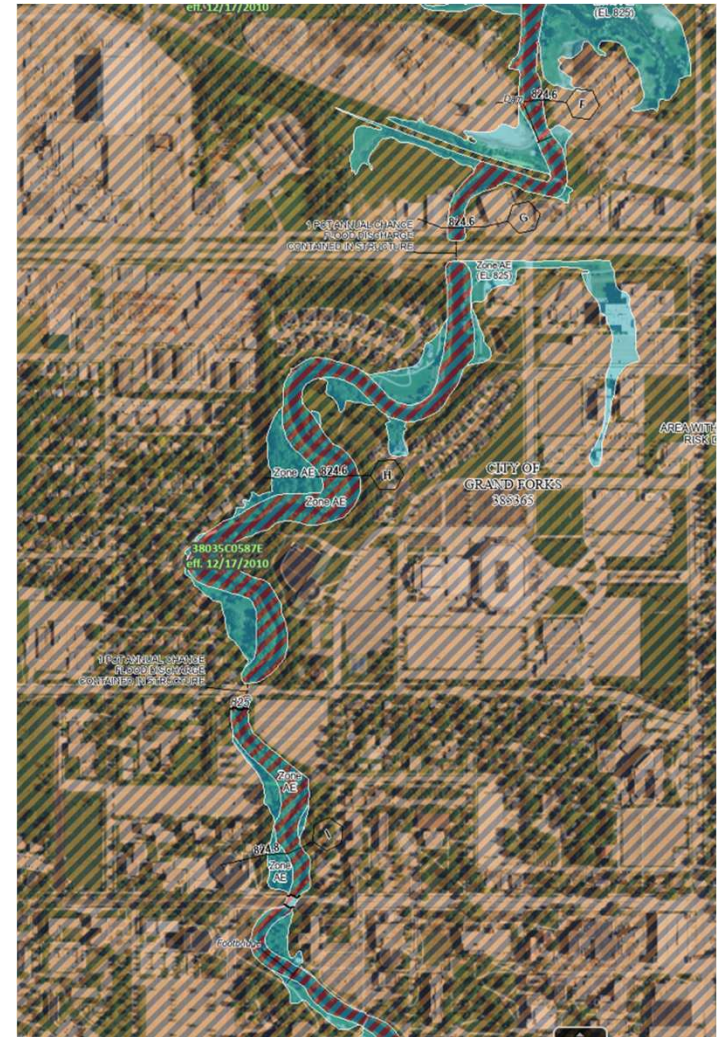
1. Public agrees water quality is poor and has significant interest in seeing improvements to the coulee
2. Poor water quality is driven by several factors, including high concentrations of phosphorous in the sediment





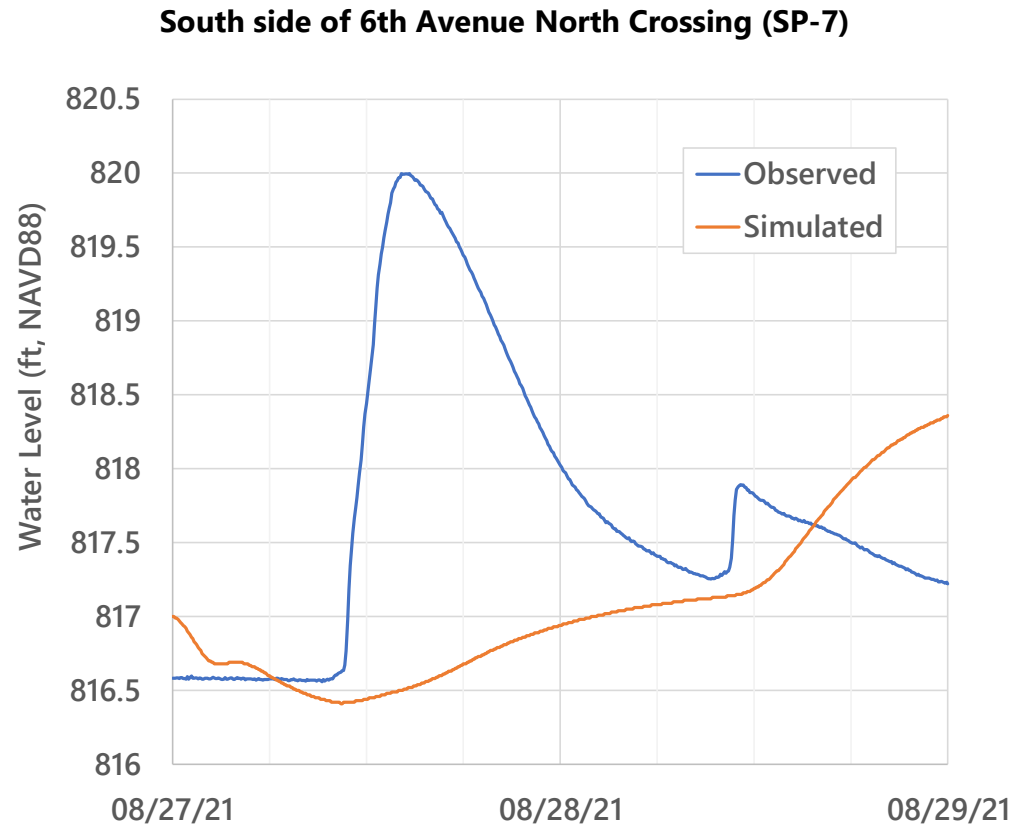
# Phase 1 Goals

1. Gauge the community's interest in improving the coulee
2. Understand the magnitude and likely causes of the water quality issues
3. Evaluate how to balance the coulee's flood protection function with potential changes to how water flows through the coulee



# Phase 1 Outcomes

1. Public agrees water quality is poor and has significant interest in seeing improvements to the coulee
2. Poor water quality is driven by several factors, including high concentrations of phosphorous in the sediment
3. **FEMA models are very inaccurate and not useful for this project moving forward.**



## Recommended Next Steps

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Develop a hydrologic / hydraulic (H&H) model that replicates how coulee water levels respond to rainfall events



Determine depth of high-nutrient sediment throughout coulee for developing of a sediment removal plan



Continue public outreach and collaboration with other partners

# Partnerships



- 1. University of North Dakota**
- 2. Grand Forks Park District**
- 3. Audubon Dakota**
- 4. Grand Forks County Water Resource District**
- 5. Grand Forks Residents**



## Other Ongoing Projects: English Coulee Restoration Project

- A partnership between the GF Park District, Audubon Dakota, UND and City of GF
- Ongoing 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South – 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South
- Monitoring the establishment of plantings
- Considering increasing the planting area further upland.



## Other Ongoing Projects: English Coulee Restoration Project

- Future Work UND to Gateway Drive
- Plan to begin removing invasive plant species from the coulee banks and plant vegetation to create areas for viewing wildlife while educating visitors





## Other Ongoing Projects: Sertoma Park Sludge Reduction

- The **BIOPODS**® POND product was used to reduce the amount of bottom sludge in the pond at Sertoma Park in the Summer of 2021.
- The **BIOPODS**® contain microbes that break down the pond sludge, which is a source of nutrients for excessive algae and plant growth.
- The goal of **BIOPODS**® is to increase water clarity and reduce odors.



## Other Projects: Dredging Legal Drain 9

- Grand Forks County Water Resource District collaborating with City on Legal Drain 9 improvements.
- State Water Commission funding to dredge the drain, correct the bottom elevation, and potentially increase flows into the City of Grand Forks.





# Interns Doing the Dirty Work



# English Coulee Renewal Master Plan

Developing the Game Plan to Renew this Important Community Asset!





# Recommended Next Steps/Action Items



1. Develop a hydrologic / hydraulic (H&H) model that replicates how coulee water levels respond to rainfall events
2. Determine depth of phosphorous in sediment throughout coulee for developing of a sediment removal plan
3. Continue public outreach and collaboration with other partners

## Phase 1 Purpose:



### **Answer the Question: "What can be done?"**

#### **Public Outreach**

Online Questionnaire | Gain Feedback | Inform Residents

#### **Water Quality and Sediment Data Collection**

Water Quality Sampling | Sediment Sampling

#### **Water Level Data Collection and Screening-level Runoff and Hydrologic/Hydraulic Analysis**



# Recommended Next Steps/Action Items



1. Develop a more accurate hydrologic / hydraulic (H&H) model of the coulee because the current tools (FEMA models) are not useful for evaluating effectiveness of potential improvements.
2. Using the improved H&H model, develop sizing, performance, and costs of water quality improvements (in-channel, watershed, and operational).
3. Develop a prioritized plan for dredging sediment from the coulee bottom.
4. Task Order will be brought forward to future COW to review and discuss