

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Committee (BPGAC)

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 – 6 PM
GF City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, Room A102

Meeting Notes

Richard O’Conner
Laurie Vasicek
Brendan Gilmore
William Gilmore
Tyson Gilmore
Bruce Kiefenheim

Nelson Rosit
Jerry Vanek
Scott Roche
Christian Danielson, GF Engineering
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

I. Resident comments

- A. Road construction detours:** Road construction has started around town, and some detours for non-motorized traffic need to be clarified. Sometimes there aren’t enough signs, and sometimes the detour is too long or confusing. What can be done to lessen the impact of these problems?

Christian: Sometimes the requirements for rerouting non-motorized traffic around a construction zone can be tricky. Detours on shared-use paths are required to use or connect to another shared-use path, and that’s not always possible. That’s why the detour can seem long. Signage can be addressed with the contractors, but there is no requirement for the number of signs at the site.

- B. The sign at Sunbeam Trailhead is fading.** Kim will look into repainting the sign. The sign will be replaced with the wayfinding sign plan in three to five years.
- C. Speed bumps at Lincoln Drive Park:** When will the speed bumps be installed at the park entrance? Kim will look into it.

II. Greenway Items: None

III. Other

- A. English Coulee projects:** The City has been working with the GF Park District, Audubon Midwest, and UND to restore the banks of the English Coulee with native plantings. The first planting project was started in 2018 along the Coulee between 11th and 17th Avenues South. The project area has expanded to Sertoma Park and UND campus. Information about the projects can be found at <https://bit.ly/GFEnglishCouleefacts>.
- B. Mayor’s Monarch Pledge:** This spring, the city of GF submitted a pledge to the National Wildlife Federation to participate in this conservation program. The program is free, and you can opt out at any time. It’s more of an opportunity to highlight community projects supporting Monarch habitats. Gracy Cole, the Outreach Coordinator at GF Public Works, coordinates a list of projects and their sponsors and owners. There are also

action items like hosting plant seed exchanges, adopting ordinances to promote native prairie grasses, and other environmentally healthy initiatives.

IV. Bikeway & Pedestrian Items

- A. Bicycle & Pedestrian portion of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update:** The Plan is now available online. The meeting schedule for presenting and adopting the information was submitted to the group for reference. So far, the planning commissions have recommended adopting the Plan. Both City Councils will review and adopt the Plan in the next month.

Next Meeting date: NO MEETING IN JULY. Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 6 PM at GF City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, room A102

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway specialist

Supporting documents: Metropolitan Transportation Plan schedule
English Coulee postcard
Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Pledge



MPO Staff Report

Update to the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Committee

Background:

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Element is part of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The Plan is updated every five years. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Element was last updated in 2018. The Greater Grand Forks pedestrian and bicycle draft plan was developed from public & steering committee input, analysis of existing conditions, and the needs & demands analysis. Bicycling and walking are increasingly important parts of urban transportation. They're simple, affordable, and healthy ways to get around cities, but they need planning and investment for people to make an easy choice to bike or walk for more trips. Throughout 2022 and into 2023 the Grand Forks and East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and community partners has been updating the Bicycle and Pedestrian Element. The Element is part of the larger Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which guides planning and investment through 2050. This updated bicycle and pedestrian plan will be used to prioritize improvements in bicycling and walking that will make Grand Forks and East Grand Forks better places to walk and bicycle for all transportation needs.

Adoption Timeline:

Preliminary approval -		Approved
GF Planning	June 7 th	
EGF Council	June 13 th	
TAC	June 14 th	
EGF Planning	June 14 th	
GF Council	June 19 th	
Exec Board	June 21 st	
Final approval -		
GF Planning	July 5 th	
TAC	July 12 th	
EGF Planning	July 12 th	
GF Council	July 17 th	
EGF Council	July 18 th	
Exec Board	July 19 th	

Findings and Analysis:

- The Bike and Pedestrian plan are an element of the MTP.

Support Materials:

- [Study Overview - Grand Forks East Grand Forks MPO Bike & Ped \(bolton-menk.com\)](https://www.bolton-menk.com)
- Presentation



2023 ENGLISH COULEE UPDATE

www.grandforksgov.com

Photo courtesy of Terry Johnson



The City of Grand Forks continues to work with partners to improve water quality, support healthy habitats for birds and other wildlife, and provide a pleasant venue for shared-use path users.

City of Grand Forks
Public Works Department
P.O. Box 5200
Grand Forks, ND 58206-5200

Visit us at
<https://bit.ly/GFEnglishCouleefacts> to
learn more about these projects and
more!



Sertoma Park

Pollinator gardens and work at the Japanese Pond are a major focus.



Water Study

Data for hydrologic / hydraulic (H&H) models and water quality were a focus.



UND Campus

Work has begun to restore healthy vegetation along the banks of the English Coulee.





**MAYORS
MONARCH
PLEDGE**

Mayors' Monarch Pledge

The monarch butterfly is an iconic North American species whose multigenerational migration and metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of Americans.

We, the undersigned mayors and heads of local or tribal government, are deeply concerned about the decline of the monarch butterfly population. Both the western and eastern monarch populations have experienced significant declines. Less than one percent of the western monarch population remains, while the eastern population has fallen by as much as ninety percent. Monarch scientists attribute the population decline to degradation and loss of summer breeding habitat in the U.S., and loss of winter habitat in south-central Mexico and coastal California.

Cities, towns, counties, and communities have a critical role to play to help save the monarch butterfly. Municipalities can provide habitat at public parks, median strips, community gardens, schools, and municipal buildings like recreation centers and libraries. Events such as community workshops, native plant giveaways, and monarch festivals, can educate residents about the cultural significance of monarchs and how to create habitat. Simple changes in landscaping ordinances or other policies can make a big difference for the monarch too.

We recognize the importance of creating monarch and pollinator habitat at parks, gardens, and other green spaces, that every member of our community can equally enjoy. Our work to help save the monarch butterfly intentionally engages all parts of our communities, ensuring that historically marginalized communities are not left out of the work or the many benefits this work will create.

When mayors speak up and take a stand, our communities notice. Therefore, we hereby commit to help restore habitat for the monarch and encourage our residents to do the same, so that these magnificent butterflies will once again flourish across the continent.

Sign the pledge at www.nwf.org/mayorsmonarchpledge

City of Grand Forks

Grand Forks, ND

Mayor Brandon Bochenski

Pledge Summary

Grand Forks, ND, is located on the Minnesota border, across from its sister city of East Grand Forks, MN. The city was named for its location at the fork of the Red and Red Lake Rivers. Grand Forks boasts a population of 59,166. Combined with its twin city of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, it forms the center of the Grand Forks, ND-MN Metropolitan Statistical Area, often called Greater Grand Forks. Over the past five years, several agencies have embraced the opportunity to provide wildflower and pollinator gardens throughout the community. The city of Grand Forks has built partnerships with Audubon Midwest, the University of ND, and GF Park District to establish restoration projects along the English Coulee.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Brandon Bochenski	2023	4/28/2023	

Action Items

Selected Action Items



**MAYORS
MONARCH
PLEDGE**

Action Items

Communications and Convening:

Action #	Action
1	Issue a Proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat.
2	Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
3	Engage* with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
4	Engage* with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
5	Engage* with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters, other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
6	Engage* with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

Action #	Action
7	Engage* with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning process to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
8	Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
9	Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

*Engage includes: in-person meetings, conferences and summits, trainings, or regular communication through email, phone, social media, etc.

Program and Demonstration Gardens:

Action #	Action
10	Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
11	Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
12	Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
13	Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
14	Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants in medians and public rights-of-way.

Action #	Action
15	Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
16	Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
17	Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
18	Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
19	Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar producing plants in community gardens.
20	Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
21	Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
22	Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change:

Action #	Action
23	Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
24	Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
25	Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
26	Direct city property managers to consider the use of native milkweed and nectar plants at city properties where possible.
27	Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
28	Change ordinances so herbicides, insecticides, or other chemicals used in the community are not harmful to pollinators.
29	Adopt ordinances that support reducing light pollution.
30	California Specific: Pass a resolution to protect over-wintering monarch butterfly habitat on public or private lands.