

# Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Committee (BPGAC)

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 – 6 PM

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

## Meeting Notes

Christian Danielson, GF Engineering Dept.  
Carter Ueland, GF Engineering Dept.  
Teri Kouba, MPO  
Jonathan Haug  
Nelson Rosit  
Richard O'Connor  
Lt. Dwight Love, GF Police Dept.  
Kasey Olson, Red River Snowmobile Club  
Brian Chandler, Red River Snowmobile Club

Scott Roche  
Belinda Johnson  
Brad Gerszewski  
Sandra Montgomery  
Rolf Paulson  
Pat White, Ski & Bike Shop  
Melody Kahlbaugh  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

### I. Bikeway & Pedestrian Items

- A. Bicycle & Pedestrian portion of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update:** The consultants are still gathering data to be included in the Plan. An open house will be held on November 16 to gather comments from the public. The goal is to have a plan available for both city councils to adopt by February 2023.

### II. Greenway Items

- A. Request to extend snowmobile route south of DeMers Avenue in GF:** The Red River Snowmobile Club has submitted a request to extend the GF snowmobile trail from DeMers Avenue to 62nd Avenue South. This new route would replace the current route on 42nd Street. Using 42nd Street has become unsafe because of increased vehicular traffic and development. There are no other options for a north-south trail through the city, so if one isn't in the Greenway, how will riders go north and south? The club would groom and sign trail at no cost to the city. They have already spent thousands of dollars on signposts for the routes they groom. The club would like to extend to the south end of EGF eventually. The club began grooming a route from EGF to Alvarado in 2022.

The current snowmobile route in the GF portion of the Greenway enters at the north boat ramp and ends just north of DeMers Avenue. The route in EGF comes in from the north past Valley Golf Course and terminates in front of the Boardwalk area in downtown EGF. Brian stated that the golf course has no issues with people going off the trail.

At the beginning of the discussion, it was noted that the lines on the map are not an exact representation of trail proximity. The width of the lines can distort the distance between the trails. It was also noted that this was an opportunity for input and no votes would be taken on the request.

Overview from Red River Snowmobile Club and GF Police Department representatives:

- This is not a done deal. Chief Nelson will review comments and decided by December 1.
- The current north to south route through Grand Forks is along 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. This is no longer feasible because of traffic and other development that make it dangerous to for riders. Eliminating that route leaves no north-south route through the city.
- The Club would like the community to be like Duluth and Bemidji, MN, which welcome riders into the city.
- This request would provide a north-south trail through Grand Forks for riders from outside communities.
- All grooming is funded by the Club and would be done once a week.
- The Club will be starting to groom a trail from EGF to Alvarado this season.
- The Club offers educational classes for riders in ND.
- Riders are already using the Greenway without trail. If we had a designated trail, they would stay in place and keep others safe.
- Club does not support a trail on the river. The previous city attorney has said that the city should not designate the river as a trail.
- Can we try something this season and pivot if it isn't working? The signs can be removed in the middle of the season if the Chief of Police decides that the new route isn't working.
- The state snowmobile season starts December 1, but that doesn't mean that the trail is open. There must be enough snow for riders. The Chief would open the trail when there is enough snow.

#### **Discussion**

- Members of the club are clearly part of the "good" riders, but that isn't what is causing the problem.
- Will this make the problem better or increase the problem?
- How will this impact nearby residents if a snowmobile is on top of the levee or goes through their yard?

#### **Enforcement**

- Police haven't enforced before, how will that change? More patrol would be available on weekends.
- Concerns about speed limit and curfew enforcement.
- Club won't police the trail because of staffing. The police have limited money and staff to do enforcement.
- Cameras can be installed but they have limitations. The camera has to be in the right place at the right time while the snowmobile has to be at the right angle to get license and rider details.
- How can the speeds be curbed? Putting twists in trail could slow them down. Also hold police accountable for enforcement.
- People should not approach an offender but take a photo and send to police.
- Radar guns are used in Crookston. Will static radars on posts will make them go faster?
- No south EGF route but people will cross over on pedestrian bridge.
- It's mostly kids riding on the levees. How will this solve that problem?

**Impact on other users and nearby residents**

- What is the expected number of riders? Are we increasing the number of riders?
- How does this impact the wildlife habitat? Does it push them into the city and onto the streets?

**B. Skis and snowshoes at Riverside Park warming house:** Cross-country skis and snowshoes will be available at the Riverside Park warming house this season. The GF Park District used funds from the Greenway and Environment Endowment Fund held at the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Region to purchase the equipment. This equipment is available during warming house hours and is free for use.

A small loop track will be groomed inside Riverside Park for beginners. This loop will be shorter than the one in Lincoln Drive Park but will be adjusted depending on snow conditions and other park uses.

**Next Meeting date:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 6 PM at GF City Hall, 255 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, room TBD

**Supporting documents:** Proposed snowmobile route for GF (5 total)

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist, City of GF



# DeMers to 8th Ave S



### Legend

- Ski Trails
- Greenway Paved Path
- Proposed Snowmobile Route

Type

- Path/Snowmobile
- Ski/Snowmobile



# 8th Ave S to Pedestrian Bridge



## Legend

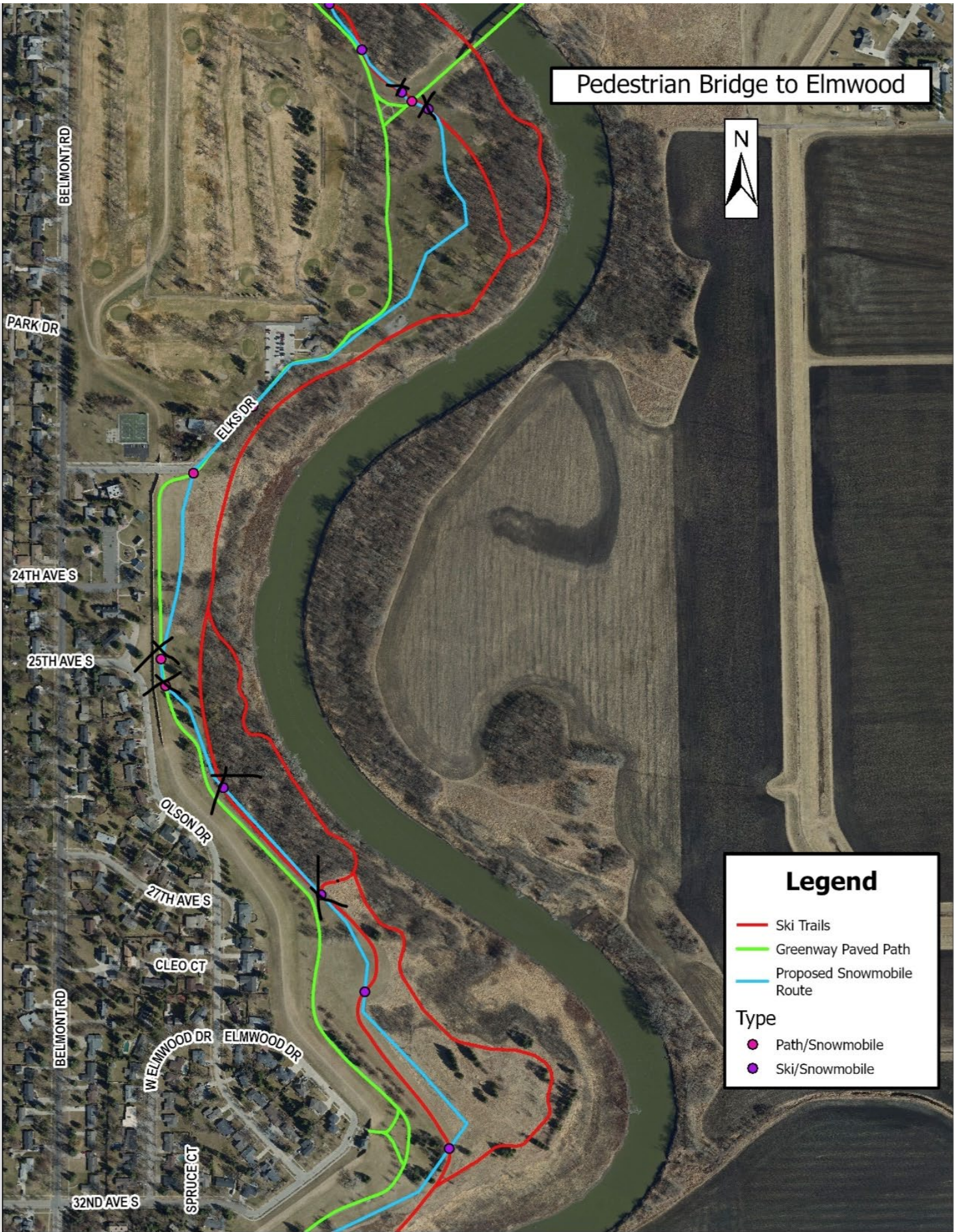
- Ski Trails
- Greenway Paved Path
- Proposed Snowmobile Route

### Type

- Path/Snowmobile
- Ski/Snowmobile



# Pedestrian Bridge to Elmwood



### Legend

- Ski Trails
- Greenway Paved Path
- Proposed Snowmobile Route

Type

- Path/Snowmobile
- Ski/Snowmobile



# Elmwood to 47th Ave S



### Legend

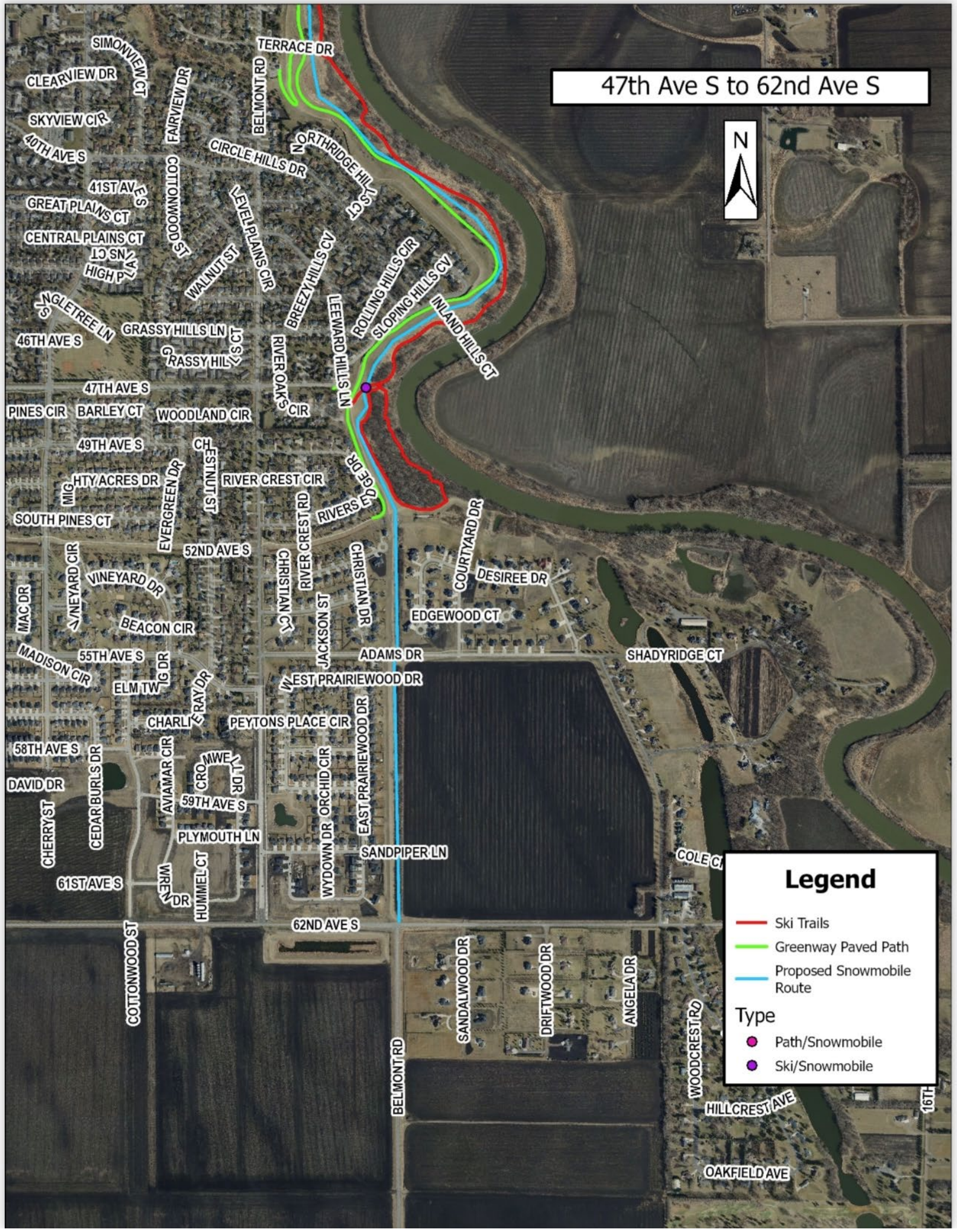
- Ski Trails
- Greenway Paved Path
- Proposed Snowmobile Route

Type

- Path/Snowmobile
- Ski/Snowmobile



47th Ave S to 62nd Ave S



**Legend**

- Ski Trails
- Greenway Paved Path
- Proposed Snowmobile Route

**Type**

- Path/Snowmobile
- Ski/Snowmobile