

Greenway Annual Report of Activities and Achievements 2013

It was a busy year in the Greenway. New events, amenities, and services were added in 2013 in response to user input and needs.

The inaugural Uff Da Mud Run was held in September along the banks (and in the waters) the Red and Red Lake Rivers along the Greenway. Over 400 participants braved an obstacle course of mud, water, and other physical challenges to prove their mental and physical mettle. Congratulations to END Racing for hosting a successful event. We look forward to seeing this event join the growing list of signature events happening annually in the Greenway.

The 2013 trail count demonstrated the continued popularity of the trail system. User trends mirrored the 2011 survey results in most categories. The age group with the highest documented trail use was the 19 – 49 years olds, followed by the 41 – 60 year olds. Biking remains the preferred mode of transportation, followed by walking.

The campground in the Red River State Recreation Area had another great year, with 26,238 guests spending at least one night in the campground. The campground continues to offer informational activities designed to educate and entertain. Archery in the Park, Cooper Hawk Banding, Mammals of the RRSRA, Tracks and Furs, Intro to Geocaching, and an open house were just some of the twelve nature activities provided for campers and the public.

A cool start to the summer caused a slight decrease in attendance at Riverside and Sherlock Pools. Approximately 19,073 people swam at Riverside Pool, while approximately 9,853 people swam at Sherlock Pool.

Several improvements were made to the electronic methods of public notification for events and news. In early spring, the public email delivery system was converted to a new service to improve delivery and provide a user-friendly design. The list of Facebook and Twitter friends continues to grow.

The development of the Greenway never ends. The Greenway Technical Committee and the Greenway & Trail Users Advisory Group considered several ideas to improve the Greenway user experience.

- **Boathouse:** A user agreement between Ground UP Adventures and the City of Grand Forks for a boathouse in downtown Grand Forks has been signed. The storage containers have arrived and will be installed after the water recedes this spring.
- **Dog park:** Two improvements were made to the dog park this year. An additional fenced area was added for smaller dogs that might not be comfortable mingling with larger dogs. We also added another entrance at the northeast corner of the large dog park area. This entrance is on higher ground and provides access to the park sooner after a flood.
- **Trail improvements:** A portion of the lower trail in the Sunbeam area was rerouted to higher ground because the old trail had begun to slump.
- **NASA Picture Posts:** Post toppers were installed along the loop trail this fall. A Picture Post is an 8-sided platform for taking repeat photographs of the entire landscape and a picture of the sky. These photos will be used to document changes in vegetation and development in the Greenway. Instructional signs describing the posts and submitting photos will be installed this summer.
- **Cross-country ski trails:** A new ski trail was added behind the Lincoln Drive Golf Clubhouse. This trail winds through the trees along the river and is a step towards developing more unpaved trails along the river.
- **Bocce Ball and horseshoe courts:** A request for installation of bocce ball and horseshoe facilities was denied because of a lack of public interest.
- **Disc golf:** A twelve-hole disc golf course was installed in Riverside Park.
- **Wood duck boxes:** Our friends at Cabela's installed several wood duck boxes throughout the Greenway this summer.
- **Radio-controlled airplane field:** An airfield for radio-controlled airplanes has been approved and will be built along the Red Lake River in East Grand Forks.

So many people gave their time and talents to plan public events, remove trash, trim trees, give input, and much more. We cannot say thank you enough for all you do – and we appreciate the help more than you could ever know.

June 2014 will mark the 10-year anniversary of the dedication of the campground in the Red River State Recreation Area, Lincoln Drive Park, and the Community Green in downtown Grand Forks. These facilities were the first of many projects constructed in the Flood Protection System and Greenway but they were not the last.