

Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) Staff meeting
10 AM – Tuesday, April 16, 2024
Icon Sports Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Meeting room
Grand Forks, ND
Meeting Notes

Jeremy King, EGF Parks & Rec
George Hellyer, GF Parks
Steve Hell, GF Parks
Catherine Johnson, MN DNR

Carter Hunter, GF Engineering
Matt Arvig, GF Streets
Kim Greendahl, Chair
Theresa Flitter, GF Public Works

I. Old Business

- A. Downtown Gateway + Greenway Renovation Master Plan update: The city of GF is applying for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program. The submission deadline is April 30, and the city will be notified in November if they are selected for the next round of consideration. The final decision will be made in November 2025.

Staff from the city and Houston Engineering are going to Omaha, NE, tomorrow to tour several parks and meet with the RDG Planning and Design team. They will also be visiting with the staff at the Gene Leahy Mall in downtown Omaha and Public Works in Council Bluffs. Both cities have flood protection systems and are looking at ways to capitalize on the recreational uses of the land along the river. Omaha just built a \$350 million park downtown, and Council Bluffs is looking to add a \$50 million climbing and observation tower, along with recreational facilities to its floodplain.

B. Wayfinding sign plan

- i. Online questionnaire: An online questionnaire will be going out within the next few weeks to measure support for wayfinding signs throughout the shared-use path system.
- ii. Data collection: There will also be an opportunity to volunteer to collect data for potential sign locations and other information.

II. New Business: None.

- III. Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway, Advisory Group update: The group reviewed the online questionnaire for wayfinding signs. The questionnaire has two goals. The first goal is to find out what is important to the community regarding wayfinding signs on the shared-use path system. The second goal is to register volunteers to collect data from the field. This will include registering for a site assignment, downloading a data collection app on a smartphone, and visiting an assigned location to collect data.

IV. Other

- A. Deer management plan in EGF: The city administrator's office recently proposed a deer bow hunt to cull the herd within city limits. This is in response to citizen complaints

about property damage. Since 2020, there have been 90 police reports of deer collisions with vehicles. A recent visual count found roughly 100 deer currently in city limits. The plan will be discussed at the next Council working session. The request to the Council would be for permission to submit a permit to the MN DNR for the 2025 season.

The EGF Police Department will administer the program. The Greenway would be divided into five zones, with a limit of two hunters per zone. No MNR property will be included in the hunt area. Participants will be selected from a raffle, with tickets costing \$35 each. Hunters must have a valid hunting license, attend an orientation class, and wear an orange hat. A proficiency test may be required. Alerting and educating the public will be an essential part of the program. A plan for removing and disposing of the carcass has yet to be determined.

- B. Dock installations: The dock in EGF is installed by a combination of city staff. Kim asked Jeremy to call her when the dock is being installed so staff from GF Public Works can watch the installation. HB Sound and Light does the GF installation now, but that can always change, and she would like to have a backup plan for installation and removal. Catherine is trying to get a floating dock this year. The dock at Eagles Point in EGF and the north boat ramp in GF are in.
 - C. LaFave Park: A preconstruction meeting is scheduled with Zavarol for later this week. The work on the boat ramp will be done later in the summer so that it doesn't conflict with the catfishing events. Not all permits are in yet, and the city of EGF may have to purchase wetland credits to meet the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requirements.
 - D. Map of both communities.
- V. Agency updates
- A. City of EGF: The trailheads are open for the season.
 - B. GF Park District: Most facilities are up and running for the season. Shelters are available for rent. Footgolf flags will be installed next week.
 - C. City of GF: A crew has been cleaning up graffiti and damages that happened over the winter. The new maps are in the kiosks. United Crane has been hired to do some crack repairs on the floodwall.
 - D. Minnesota DNR: The campground is open earlier than most seasons. The regular season starts next week, and online reservations will start on Friday, April 19. Only electricity is available at the sites. The water hookups will be coming later next week. The River Heights trailhead will be opening soon. There was a fire in one of the walk-in sites last week.
- VI. Next meeting date: Greenway Technical Committee 10 AM Tuesday, May 21, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club meeting room.

Support documents: None

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist