The Greenway concept first was proposed by the North Dakota Congressional delegation after the flood of 1997. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in association with Greenways Incorporated of North Carolina did initial planning.

In December 1998, the Cities of Grand Forks, ND and East Grand Forks, MN jointly agreed to develop an Action Plan for the design and development of the Greenway.

Construction began in late 2001 and is expected to be completed in late 2007.

The Greenway is an essential component of the flood protection system and its development coincides with the construction of the levee.

The Greenway is managed through a collaborative effort by the Cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, Grand Forks Park District and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

When the Greenway is complete, the City of Grand Forks will own all the land on the Grand Forks side and will manage and maintain all other areas on the North Dakota side.

The Grand Forks Park District will manage four areas, which consist of the larger recreational areas located in the Greenway, through lease agreements. These areas include Riverside, Kannowski and Lincoln Drive Parks as well as Lincoln Golf Course.

In just 10 short years, the Greenway has emerged as an award-winning facility that both enhances and protects the Greater Grand Forks community. This natural resource, initially designed to manage the impact of rising river water, already has provided economic and recreation benefits to community.

The Greenway consists of approximately 2,200 acres of natural space located between the levee system and the banks of the Red and Red Lake Rivers. Visitors can enjoy almost 20 miles of paved, multi-purpose trails, including an approximately 10-mile loop through both communities and connected by two pedestrian bridges. Other recreational features include:

- 2 golf courses: one 18-hole course & one 9-hole course
- 4 boat ramps
- Campground
- Wildlife observation areas
- Disc golf course
- Wildflower garden
- Ice skating rinks
- Cross country ski trails
- Playground equipment
- Benches
- Basketball & tennis courts
- Softball, soccer and football field
- Volleyball
- Horseshoes
- Access to shore fishing
- Informational kiosks
- Sledding hill (seasonal)
- Restrooms