



City of Grand Forks
Staff Report
Committee of the Whole- July 14, 2025
City Council – July 21, 2025

Agenda Item: Proposed enhancements to area of the Flood Protection/Greenway System near Rivers Edge

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist
Melanie Parvey, Water Works Director

Staff Recommended Action: Approve bidding the project to make enhancements in the Flood Protection/Greenway System to the trail and fishing spot near River's Edge and accept funding for this project from Garrison Diversion in the amount of \$50,000 and Outdoor Heritage Fund in the amount of \$155,450.

Committee Action: Motion by Berg, second by Fridolfs to move City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried 5-2 with Osowski and Sande dissenting.

Council Action: Motion by Weigel, second by Osowski to approve. Motion failed 2-5, with Weigel, Osowski, Berg, Fridolfs and Sande dissenting.

BACKGROUND:

The project area is part of the Flood Protection/Greenway System and is located between 47th and 62nd Avenues South. The city owns the property, but it wasn't initially developed as part of the Flood Protection/Greenway System. The neighborhood east of the project, commonly called the Shady Ridge area, was annexed in 2014. The present condition of the property is undeveloped city-owned land bordered by an earthen levee, homes, and the Red River. A storm pond is in the middle of the property. The area north along the river is heavily forested. The fishing site at the trail's end is currently an ad hoc site with no amenities.

The Greenway Fishing Enhancement Project extends the existing paved trail .4 miles south from 47th Avenue South to the riverbank near Rivers Edge and Desiree Drive neighborhood. Plans include a 10' wide paved trail, safety railing at the fishing site, benches, trash cans, and an informational kiosk for trail users and anglers. (Attachment A) This project is located in an undeveloped area of the Greenway owned by the city of Grand Forks and set aside for recreational use. An agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prevents the sale of this property for use other than flood protection use. (Attachment B)

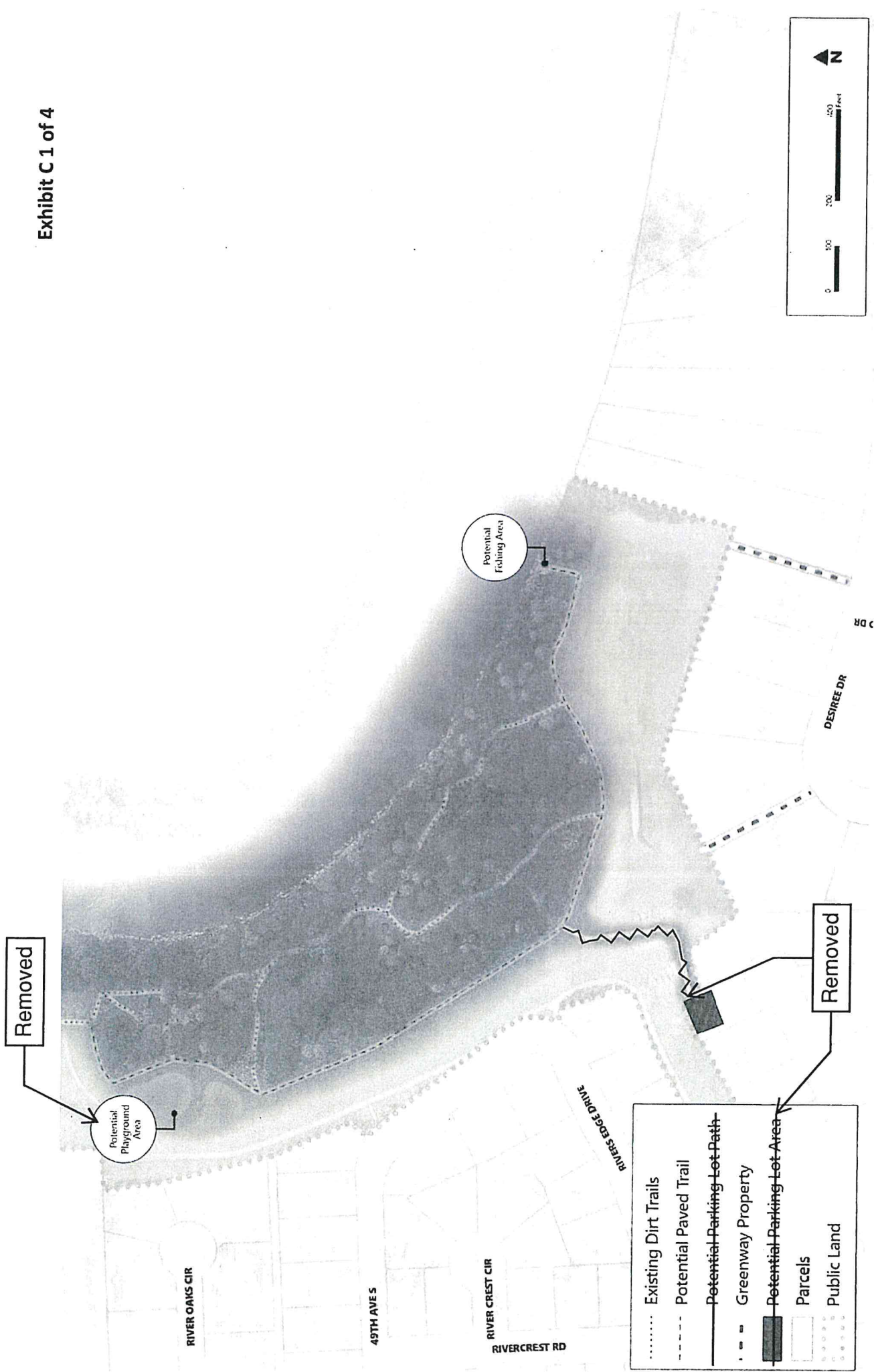
Staff worked with KLJ Engineering to develop plans and specs for improvements to this area. Those improvements included extending the paved trail south from 47th Avenue South, clearing the area around the fishing site, adding benches and trash cans to the fishing area.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT: The project area is not easily accessible for all ages and abilities and improve the amenities at a popular riverbank fishing area. The remoteness of this location has limited access and awareness of the riverbank opportunities for users outside the adjacent neighborhood.

- Riverbank fishing continues to grow in Grand Forks. Residents of all ages have found the benefits of spending time in nature and experiencing the joy of reeling in a catfish, walleye, and other fish species from the Red River.
- Overall, respondents supported four items in the survey. These totals do not show those who answered “neutral” on the survey, but that information is available in the full survey response report.
 - 64% support adding benches and trash receptacles along the trail and at the fishing area.
 - 55% support clearing a larger area at the fishing site.
 - 46% support replacing the current metal retention wall at the fishing site (asked twice on survey).
 - 46% support a paved trail from 47th Avenue South to the fishing area.
- Funding sources:
 - Garrison Diversion Conservancy Grant in the amount of \$50,000;
 - Outdoor Heritage Fund \$155,450, approved by Industrial Commission
 - Recreation Trails Grant was not awarded.
- January 16, 2024 City Council approved future design plan and funding applications for the Project; Garrison Diversion Conservancy District approved funding for the project
- The project team collaborated with the City Engineering Department to receive USACE approval of the proposed project.
- Total Project Cost: Estimated at \$494,195, of which \$288,745 needs to be funded locally with below options:
 - Flood Protection/Greenway Capital Maintenance Fund (Fund 4154) in the amount of \$310,000 (Greenway Trail Overlay - \$110,000 and Rivers Edge - \$200,000);
 - Stormwater Enterprise Fund – Construction Reserve Cash Balance that is Undesignated \$428,394.13

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Attachment A- Design of Area by KLJ Architects Labeled Exhibit C 1 of 4
- Attachment B- US Army Corps of Engineers Approval- February 19, 2025





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT
332 MINNESOTA STREET, SUITE E1500
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1323

CEMVP-ECG

February 19, 2025

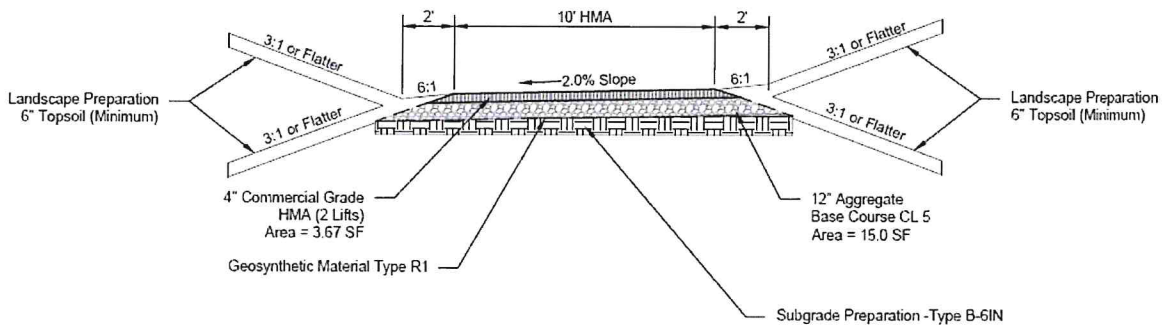
MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Greenway/Shared Use Path Extension in Grand Forks, North Dakota

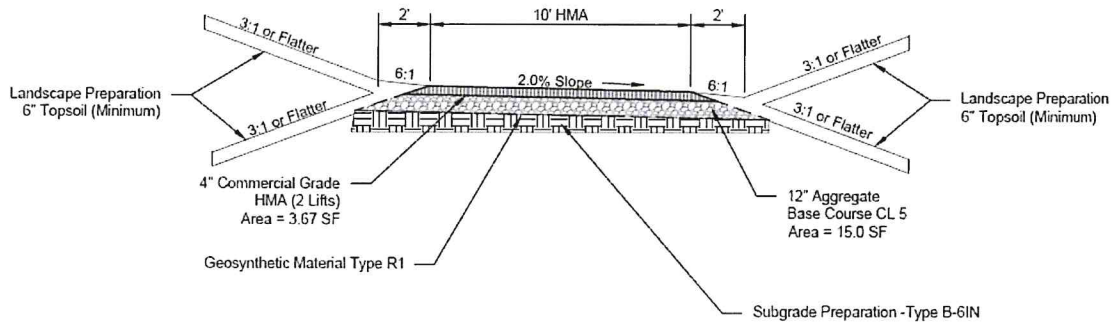
This is regarding the request to extend the existing greenway trail to provide better public access (for recreation and fishing) to the Red River of the North, located in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Most of the trail extension will occur near the riverside toe of the levee system (note that there is an existing trail system on the landside levee toe). The proposed work will involve the installation of a shared usage path that will be 10-feet wide. The trail will have subgrade preparation (6-in) overlain with geosynthetic material (Type R1) with a 12-inch aggregate base (Class V) course and that will be covered with a 4-inch commercial grade hot mix asphalt (placed in 2 lifts). The path will be sloped to drain at 2%. Additionally, the work will include the construction of a small fishing area at the river's edge. The path will tie into part of the existing paved trail that crosses over the top of the levee near 47th Avenue South.

A plan view of the proposed greenway extension, and cross sections are shown below.





PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION
STA. 10+40 TO 16+00



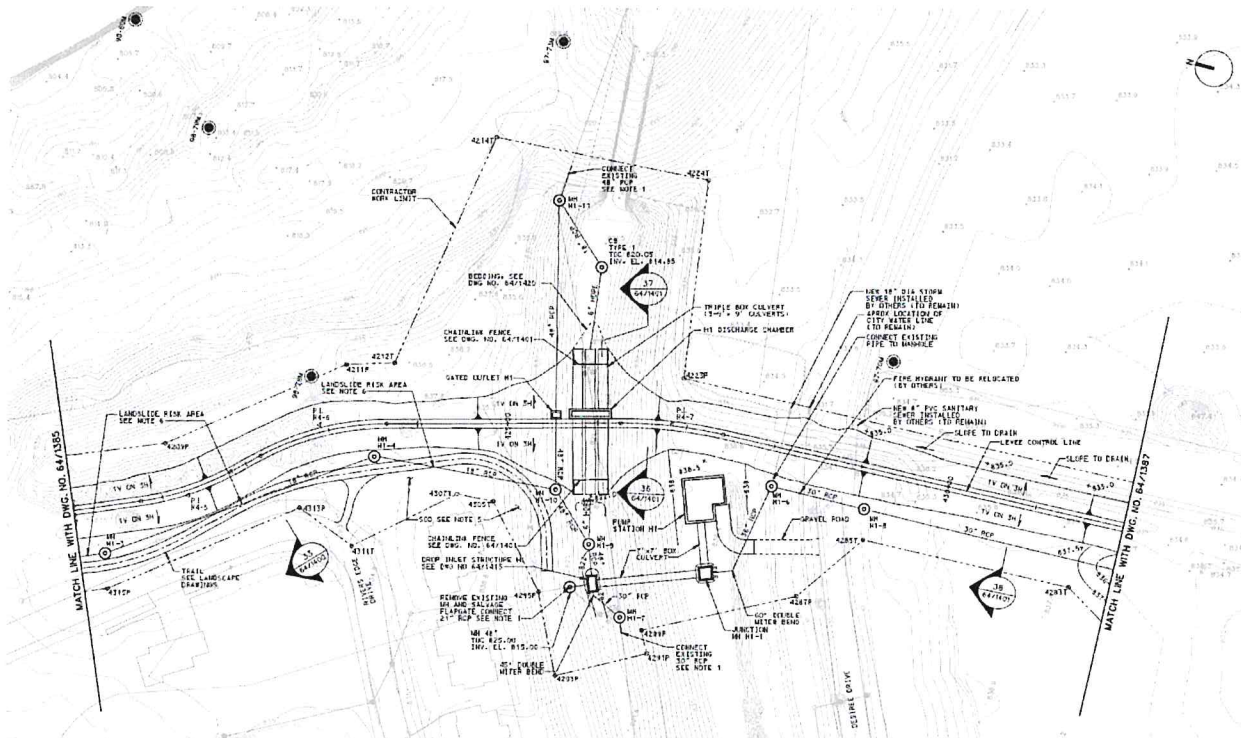
PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION
STA. 16+50 TO 31+18

Based on the preliminary information provided by KLJ Engineering (on behalf of the City of Grand Forks), the proposed work is acceptable to USACE.

USACE Levee Safety acknowledges that the trail work will not impact future operation and maintenance, inspection, and potential flood fighting/emergency operations. Additionally, the proposed modifications do not impact the functionality of the federally authorized project features and do not increase the risk of poor performance during future high-water events.

The contractor will access the work area via the existing trail system near 47th Avenue South. The proposed modification temporarily degrades the existing, riverside levee toe by less than two feet and the City shall ensure that the finished grade (along the toe and at the downstream tie-in point) matches project as-built cross sections for this reach. Upon completion of trail improvements ensure that any unpaved, disturbed areas are topsoiled and seeded to ensure that grass is established to control erosion during future high-water events.

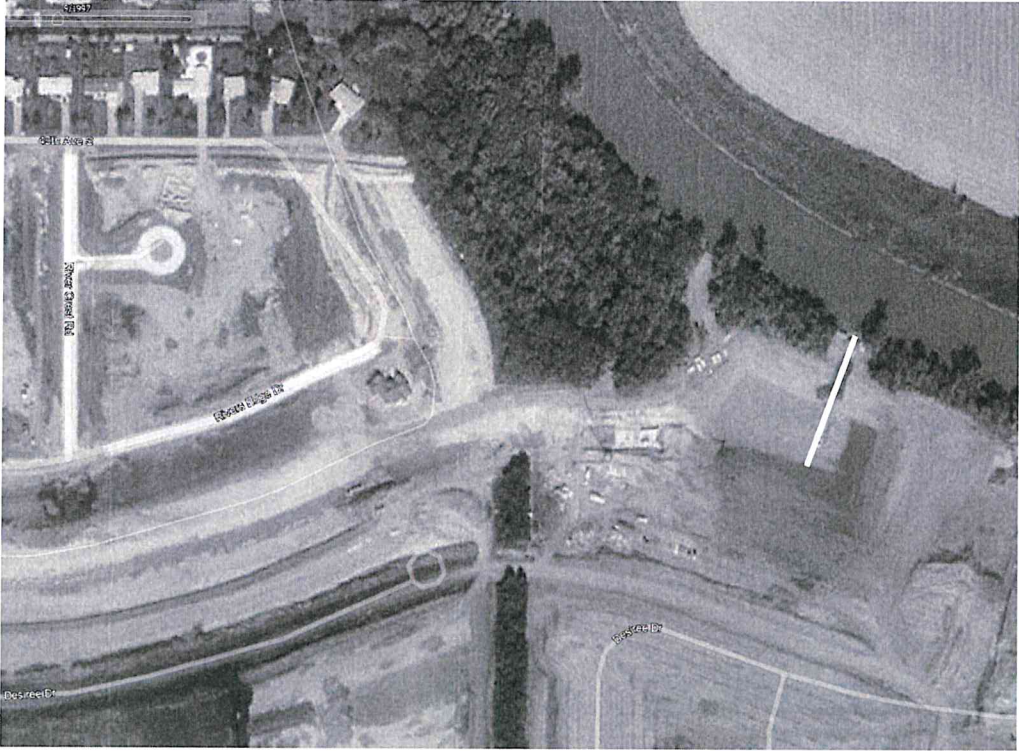
Construction shall not be undertaken if the river is at any flood stage or if high water is expected. Even temporary excavation could exacerbate seepage related concerns behind the levee.



Grand Forks, ND Flood Control, Phase 3, Stage 4 – Dwg. R-P-GF 64/1386

Based on a review of the Phase 3, Stage 4 as-built drawings, the levee system may have some buried conduits that run parallel to the existing concrete chute. The pipes appear to be outside of the proposed work limits, but the contractor should be aware of their location and ensure they are not damaged during the path work.

Additionally, it appears that there may be a conduit that goes from the chute drainage area out to the river that may be near the proposed fishing area platform. While this won't impact any federally designed infrastructure, USACE would recommend that all utilities should be located prior to installation. It is possible that the new fishing platform could prohibit future maintenance access to the outlet pipe.



Upon completion of the work, please provide as-built drawings to the St. Paul District so that they can be kept with this system's program files.

If unforeseen conditions arise during construction that could impact the integrity of the existing federal project or required modification of the design during construction, the Corps levee safety staff must be notified immediately.

The USACE points of contact for conditions of the letter is Mr. Eric Wittine. He can be contacted at (651) 290-5590 (email at eric.a.wittine@usace.army.mil).

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Eric Wittine, PE
Levee Safety Program Manager