

STATUS REPORT

These status report sheets describe projects and programs that are being implemented in the Red River Basin that assist in carrying out the mission of the Red River Basin Commission.

Project/Program: **GREENWAY ON THE RED**

Project Sponsor: Greenway on the Red Board and Audubon Dakota
118 Broadway
Suite 512
Fargo, ND 58102
701-298-3373

Project Summary:

- **Flood Control:** The overriding purpose of the contiguous Greenway is to mitigate the destruction and hardship caused by inevitable flooding in the Red River Basin. The Greenway is being established as an important component of a comprehensive, basin-wide flood mitigation strategy, with the primary objective of contributing to flood damage mitigation.
- **Recreation:** In addition to flood mitigation values, the continuous Greenway corridor from Lake Traverse to Lake Winnipeg will provide recreational and educational opportunities that encompass: a multipurpose trail system (i.e., biking, walking, cross-country skiing, etc.); birding; hunting and fishing; canoeing; and eco-tourism. The Greenway has the potential of establishing the only north-south connection between the *North Country Trail* in the U.S. and the *Trans Canada Trail* in Manitoba. There are also some significant historical sites and multiple educational opportunities. Greenway on the Red Board participation includes the Tourism Director for Manitoba.
- **Conservation:** The establishment of a contiguous Greenway on the Red will entail measures of protection and/or restoration of riparian and wetland areas in the floodplain as appropriate. This will have a direct and positive effect on the protection of water quality and channel stability in the Red River. In addition, the Greenway will provide contiguous wildlife habitat in this ecologically important area for a multitude of species. A canoeist who paddled the Red River from Wahpeton to Lake Winnipeg in the summer of 2000 observed wrens, orioles, scarlet tanagers, mourning doves, owls, blackbirds, magpies, great blue herons, green herons, kingfishers, wood ducks, mallards, Canada geese, and bald eagles. Mammals observed included white-tailed deer, beaver, muskrats, raccoons, and — north of Grand Forks — rumor of black bear and moose. Fish species included catfish, walleye, bass, carp, sucker, and the alleged occasional sturgeon.
- **Study:** Monitoring and sound science are essential to ensure that the Greenway on the Red is accomplishing flood mitigation goals. Toward that end, the Greenway will require ongoing hydrologic monitoring to assess the quantitative contribution of the evolving Greenway to flood mitigation (i.e., acre-feet of water held out of the Red River). In addition, there will be an ongoing need for hydrologic, geomorphologic, and soils research and input, as well as community education and communications requirements. To this end, it is important for the Greenway to maintain strong and continuing linkages with the other basin-wide initiatives in the Red River.



Submitted to RRBC: August, 2001

Plan Management Action: November, 2001

RRBC Action: December, 2001

Follow-up Action:

Ongoing - RRBC staff has participated in Greenway on the Red meetings as well as board meetings of the project.



Red River Basin Commission

119 5th St. S • PO Box 66 • Moorhead, MN 56561 • Phone 218-291-0422
410-283 Bannatyne Ave. • Winnipeg, MB R3B 3B2 • Phone 204-982-7254

www.redriverbasincommission.org
