



Bishop Grandin Greenway

Spring 2011 Newsletter

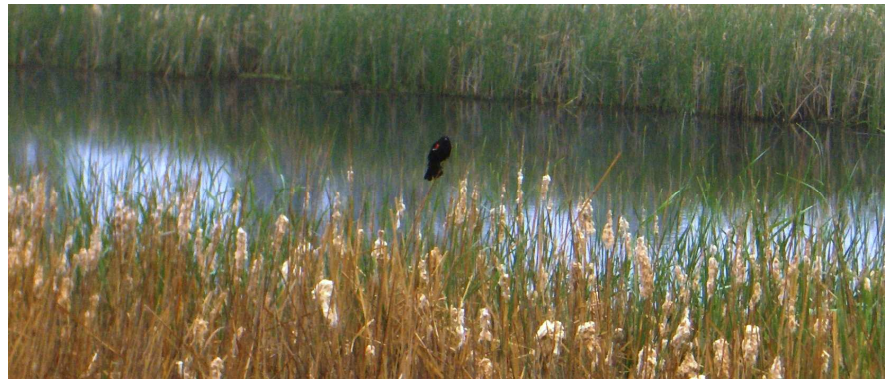
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Name the Ponds *Contest*

There are three retention ponds along Bishop Grandin Greenway. These “man-made lakes” have been saddled until now with the uninspired and informal names Pond 1, Pond2 and Pond 3. Although they are not a product of nature, they have become one with nature, attracting a wide variety of plant and animal life. They also provide scenic beauty to those who travel on the paved trail that winds along the Greenway.

It was decided at last that these ponds deserved names that were worthy of what they are: a key feature of the Greenway for all to enjoy. On February 9th, the Name the Greenway Ponds contest was launched in search of names that reflect their unique character and link to St.Vital. The contest, open to students and the public at large, closed on March 11th, with the winning submissions to be announced at International Trails Day on June 4th.



The Bishop Grandin Greenway board would like to thank all who submitted name suggestions, and looks forward to not having to call the ponds “1, 2 and 3” again.

KEY DATES

- May 7** Spring Clean-up
(rain date: May 14)
- June 4** International Trails Day
- June 9** Annual General Meeting



Find us on Facebook

Join “Friends of Bishop Grandin Greenway” to stay updated with event announcements, photos, and more.

Remembering Bud

We were saddened to learn that Bud Ewacha recently passed away. Bud was a founding member of Bishop Grandin Greenway and until recently a member of the Board of Directors. His passion for the project led to the creation of the wild flower garden on the Greenway, among other things. The Board of Directors and BGG membership remember Bud as a kind and generous person and are thankful for his contributions over the years.



Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc.

'By the community for the community'

What's Happening in 2011?

Community Garden Upgrades

The popular community garden will see enhancements this year: a new bulletin board will be installed to provide information about the gardens and public notices related to the Greenway. As well, we intend to construct a pergola to provide a place to relax in the shade on those hot sunny days.

Field of Hope

Planning is underway for this exciting fall project which will engage the community and give people the opportunity to honour ones they've lost. This will happen all while beautifying the Greenway by planting Daffodils on a hill overlooking Bishop Grandin Boulevard. Come the following spring you should find a colourful meadow of flowers that will serve as an annual beacon of hope.

New Signage

Expect to see new signage at the trailhead near St. Mary's Road, including an updated map of both the Greenway itself, as well as the trail that has been extended both east and west along Bishop Grandin Boulevard, as well as south along the Seine River.

International Trails Day!



Any day is a great day to get outside, be active, and explore your community. International trails day is even better because you get to be part of a growing international movement to promote trail development and encourage healthy lifestyles.

Last year we celebrated International Trails Day on Bishop Grandin Greenway by having stations along the trail with activities and demonstrations for everyone. We had crafts and a reading tent for kids, disc dog and martial arts demonstrations, urban polling, container gardening and much more. Some of the favourite features from last year will be returning, as well as new adventures for 2011.

We hope you come and take part in what's going on!

Saturday June 4th 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM



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Feature: The ponds along the Greenway

Wherever they occur, water bodies inevitably attract both wildlife and people. The three ponds along Bishop Grandin, through both aesthetic appeal and the interesting wildlife they attract, add much to our enjoyment as we traverse the Greenway by foot or by bicycle.

Created more than three decades ago for temporary storage and partial cleansing of storm waters and spring run-off, these small water bodies gradually have become naturalized. Various wild species now use them as habitat. The water supports many species of microscopic algae, which provide oxygen and food for a variety of tiny invertebrates including rotifers, crustaceans, mollusks, and insect larvae. Duckweed, one of the smallest and fastest growing green seed plants, often covers much of the pond surface and provides food for waterfowl.

Along the pond margins, cattails and other rooted plants provide cover and food for nesting birds and other larger species. Red-winged blackbirds nest and feed among the cattails and scream at passersby who venture too close. Surface-feeding ducks, particularly Mallards, spend much of their time on the ponds, and may use the artificial nest boxes provided. Some ducks may prefer to nest in upland vegetation near the ponds, where native prairie grasses and wildflowers can be found.



Dissolved oxygen in the water of these shallow, productive ponds may drop to very low concentrations under ice, making it difficult for fish to survive until spring. However, some minnows seem to be present each year and may enter the ponds by swimming up drains from the Red River when water levels are high. In the 1980s, one of these ponds was used by University of Manitoba researchers to study the “ecological effects of malathion on juvenile walleye”, which were added to the pond for the experiment.

Of course, the ponds and their inhabitants also attract visits by a variety of other species. These visitors may include amphibians and small reptiles seeking to reproduce or feed. Hawks, owls, and small mammals may visit in search of prey, or just for a drink.

As our society becomes increasingly urbanized, we humans have fewer opportunities to observe wild species as they interact in natural settings. These three ponds have become focal points for just such observations. On your spring travels along the Bishop Grandin trail, take a few minutes to pause by a pond, and enjoy!



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MISSION STATEMENT

To create, enhance and conserve an accessible network of nature areas and public pathways that link and support both human and wildlife communities along Bishop Grandin Blvd.

ABOUT BISHOP GRANDIN GREENWAY:

Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc., (BGGI) is a not for profit registered charity addressing the community need for improved history, health and wellness. The organization consists of community volunteers who are spearheading the Greenway development. Many organizations are supporting the project through expertise, guidance and financial support - Manitoba Hydro, the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, Rotary and Walmart to name a few.

Monthly Meetings - Open to the Public
6:30 pm, Second Thursday of every month
Youville Centre, 6-845 Dakota Street

BISHOP GRANDIN GREENWAY INC.

2010-2011 Volunteer Board of Directors

Murray Gibson	President
Gordon Newton	Past President
Michelle Meade	Vice President
Debbie Svaling	Secretary
Adelard Lemoine	Director
Karen Jones	Director
John Shearer	Director
Derick Young	Director
Bruce Garner	Director



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MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT

Annual Membership \$10.00 (*renewable March 31*)
Cheques payable to: Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Your cash and in-kind contributions help improve Bishop Grandin Greenway each year! The Greenway not only preserves green space along Bishop Grandin Boulevard, but also enables each of us (whether on bike, foot or wheelchair) to enjoy the beauty, nature and wildlife along the corridor. Help us create Bishop Grandin Greenway with a gift that reflects your commitment to preserving this important piece of green space. All contributions of \$20.00 or more will receive a tax receipt. For more information on opportunities to donate, see 'Get Involved' at www.BishopGrandinGreenway.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are the heart of Bishop Grandin Greenway. Countless people and organizations offer their time, expertise and assistance towards many of the Greenway projects. There are a number of ways in which you can get involved.

circle areas of interest

Education

(Environment, healthy living, youth/senior education, etc.)

Environment

(Habitat conservation & restoration, tree plantings, etc.)

Finance

(Public / private fundraising, etc.)

Recreation

(active transportation, active living, etc.)

Special Events

(public / private)

Public Relations

(Volunteer development / newsletter production, website content, posters, promotion, etc.)

Board of Directors / Governance

(Become involved in project management and governance of the volunteer organization.)