



Bishop Grandin Greenway

2013 Newsletter

Our New Pond Signs

This year as you walk along the Greenway you will notice something new: pond names!

The winning names from our 2011 Name That Pond contest have been engraved on rocks and installed at each of the three retention ponds that reside in Bishop Grandin Greenway. We think they look great and add personality to our little lakes.

Keep an eye out for the new signs and get to know the new names: **Apakway Pond, Eagles Pond and Nature's Haven.** It is certainly more interesting than Pond 1 2 and 3!

Thanks to Larsen's Memorials for help with the signs.



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KEY DATES

- May 11 Spring Clean-up
- June 1 Between 2 Rivers Trails Day
- June 19 Annual General Meeting



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Greenway

Companion Gardening: *Three Sisters*

According to the Iroquois, corn, squash and beans should only be grown together since they are "sisters" who shouldn't be separated.

This is a highly effective method of planting since the three plants work to benefit each other. The corn provides structure for the beans to climb, the beans enrich the soil with nitrogen, and the squash grows along the ground and blocks out sun light and prevents the spread of weed. The beans will also help to stabilize the corn plants so that they are less vulnerable to the wind.

You can also include a fourth "sister": a Rocky Mountain bee plant of spider flower. The flowers attract bees, which help pollinate the beans and squash, and any other vegetables you have growing in your garden.

You can easily purchase the packs of seeds at your local stores or find nifty seed packs that contain all three types online. **Check out our June 1st Trails Day workshop "Companion Gardening for Small Spaces"** that will include a planting demonstration on Three-Sisters gardening.

As you start planning your planting and plotting out your garden for the summer, we highly encourage you to give the three sisters method a go this year.



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What's Happening in 2013?

Between 2 Rivers Trails Day

Between 2 Rivers Trails Day returns to Bishop Grandin Greenway on International Trails Day, June 1. Many of the favourite features return from our most successful trails day so far in 2012 along with several new activities to check out. Come for the Lacrosse demonstration, pulled pork sliders, composting workshop, crafts for kids, St. Vital bike tour, and much more! Download the brochure at www.bishopgrandingreenway.com.

St. Vital Festival

If all approvals are finalized as expected, a small retail complex will begin construction this summer just off the Greenway west of St. Anne's Road. The complex will include a Swiss Chalet Restaurant and two other smaller retail units. The developer is consulting with Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc to minimize any visual disruption with the greenway.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is on **June 19** at 6:30 PM, at Youville Centre 6-845 Dakota Street. The meeting is open to the public.

RPARC - In Pursuit of Green Space

A new group has formed with the goal of reclaiming, protecting and enhancing green space in southern Winnipeg. Riel Parks And Rivers Common (RPARC) is a loosely formed collective of existing groups including Save Our Seine, OURS-Winnipeg, the St. Germain/Vermette Community Association, and L'Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba.

RPARC is a very young organization. It's specific objectives and how it will go about accomplishing them still need to be ironed out, but it's general goals include:

- transparent urban planning processes that recognize and incorporate the value and importance of our green spaces.
- protecting and enhancing urban forest, wildlife corridors and grasslands, especially along the riverbanks and neighboring lands of the urban Seine River.

Among the areas that have come to the attention of RPARC is a narrow plot of land adjacent to Bishop Grandin Greenway. The area at 539 St Anne's Rd includes a boarded up house built in 1932 and a number of sheds in various states of disrepair. The land stretches all the way to the Seine River just to the north of Bishop Grandin Blvd, making it of potential interest for future riverside greenspace or trails.



539 St. Anne's Rd

If anything happens with this or any other area along the Greenway, we will let you know through our Newsletter, website, or Facebook (Friends of Bishop Grandin Greenway).



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Tales from the Greenway: From Bishop Grandin to Hawaii

It all began at the Bishop Grandin Greenway spring cleanup in 2012. Dan, a community-oriented young man with an interest in gardening, rode his longboard down to the Greenway to help out. It was here that he met members of the Bishop Grandin Greenway volunteer organization and learned about the community gardens from a BGG board member.

With his interest in gardening and sustainability, Dan secured himself one of the raised garden beds for the summer, using it to plant tomatoes, onions, cauliflower and lettuce, among other things. The garden started off nicely, for the most part, but the lettuce got off to a slow start. Why the lettuce was underperforming, Dan wasn't sure.

It was around this time, at the Between 2 Rivers Trails Day event that summer, that Dan found himself in a conversation with a young lady at the gardening pavilion. He mentioned his concern about how his lettuce was not growing as well as he had hoped. As chance would have it, the young lady, a daughter of a BGG board member, had worked on a lettuce farm in Hawaii. Maybe he should give them a call, she suggested.

So it was that Dan went from planting lettuce in a garden box on Bishop Grandin Greenway, to growing lettuce on a farm on the Big Island in Hawaii. He had contacted the farm and was accepted for a work term in the fall.

It was a lifestyle that suited him very well. He could ride his longboard along the sweeping coastal roads, hike through the rain forest picking mangos off the trees, and live amidst exotic plants. On the farm where he resided they pruned trees, harvested cinnamon, picked macadamia nuts, and yes, grew lettuce, planting up to 8000 plants a week.

Dan is back in Canada and back in school, working on his Environmental Studies degree. The plants that he's working with now may be less exotic, but he gained a great deal of knowledge, many memories, and some great stories from his time in Hawaii, like the time his "short cut" up from the beach turned into a 6 hour excursion through rain forest and macadamia nut farms.

Though his time in Hawaii was relatively short, it was something he will never forget, and it all began on Bishop Grandin Greenway.

*Spring
Clean-up!*

May 11 was our annual spring clean-up. After an exceptionally long winter, there was much work to be done, but over 30 volunteers showed up to help and with three hours of work a good portion of the Greenway was scoured. We would like to thank all of those who helped, including Dr. Roof for collecting all the garbage bags and Starbucks for providing the coffee!



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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

Contact BGGreenway@hotmail.com for the times and locations of upcoming meetings.

2012-2013 Volunteer Board of Directors

Michelle Meade	President
Murray Gibson	Past President
Derick Young	Vice President
Debbie Svaling	Secretary
Richard Kish	Treasurer
John Shearer	Director
Bruce Garner	Director

BGG Inc would like to welcome our new community liaison volunteers:

Pascal Rocher
James Chliboyko

CONTACT:

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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.)