

Bishop Grandin Greenway

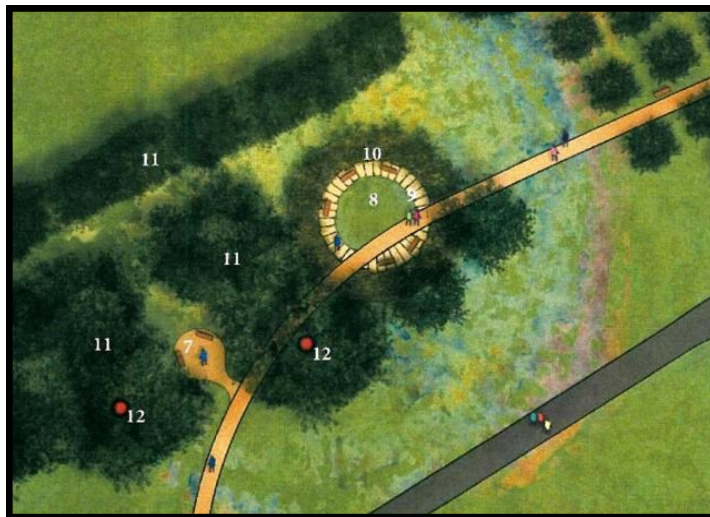
2014 Newsletter

Bittersweet Way

The Bishop Grandin Greenway board has been working on an exciting new proposal to open up more of the greenway to the people while recognizing the cultural and natural history of location.

Located on the site of a former homestead, Bittersweet Way will include a walking path that takes people through an emerging orchard to a commemorative circle and seating area where people can relax and contemplate the evolution of St. Vital over the generations.

For more on this, see page 3 of this newsletter.



New: Trailhead Signage

We now have signage at the St. Mary's Road trailhead. A few years ago a shelter was built on the trail near the corner of St. Mary's and Bishop Grandin, but the intention had always been that a map and guide to the greenway would be installed. That finally happened this spring.

The bilingual sign highlights points of interest on and near the Greenway as well as connecting trails, and provides a brief history of Bishop Grandin Greenway.

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KEY DATES

- May 10 Spring Clean-up
- June 7 Between 2 Rivers Trails Day
- June 12 Annual General Meeting



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What's Happening in 2014?

Between 2 Rivers Trails Day

Bishop Grandin Greenway is bringing back the Between 2 Rivers Trails Day event **June 7** — International Trails Day! The scaled-back festivities this year will include most of the kid-oriented features that were popular in previous years, as well as a second component focused on early preparations for our new Bittersweet Way project.

For more detail, visit us at www.bishopgrandingreenway.com.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is on **June 12** at 6:30 PM, at Youville Centre 6-845 Dakota Street. The meeting is open to the public.

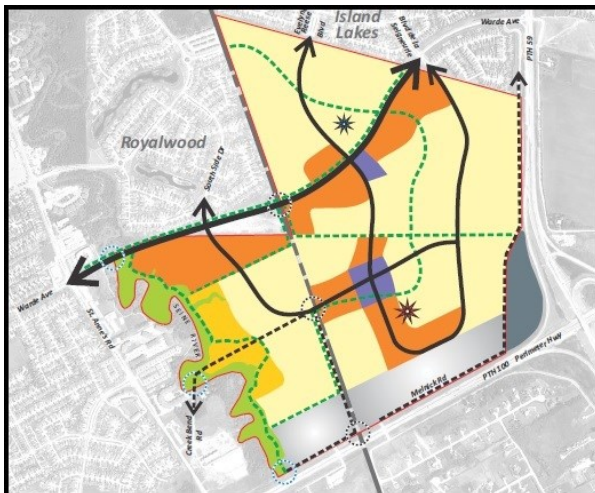
Fall Activities

Bishop Grandin Greenway often has tree or shrub plantings in the Fall, or other activities to maintain and beautify the greenway. Check our web site in late summer or early fall to see if could use any help!

Precinct K - Suburban Growth and Green Space

Not far from Bishop Grandin Greenway, down the Seine River and past the Bois Des Esprit forest, you will find an undeveloped area that seems like a piece of rural Manitoba dropped into the city. This area connects to farmland south of Royalwood and Island Lakes, all of which makes up Precinct K — one of the areas identified by the City of Winnipeg as a future residential development.

The future may be coming faster than you think, as developers have already begun plowing up part of the area. This creates a sense of urgency as Save Our Seine attempts to protect scarce green space along the river, and lay the foundation for a linear park connecting Bois Des Esprit to the southern limits of the city.



The City is obligated to purchase the flood-prone areas along the river, but beyond that the requirements for protecting green space are limited. Developers have an obligation to allocate only 8% of land to public use. In the eastern segment of Precinct K, this amounts to only 12.9 acres of land, and only 8.8 of those may be allocated to protection of land along the river. In some areas this may allow for little more than a walking path.

With political will it is possible to preserve additional green space, as was the case with the Bois Des Esprit forest further north. Lacking that, the decisions are in the hands of the developers, but there is little incentive for them to protect more land than the regulations require.



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Bittersweet Way: An exciting new project

On April 15 Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc held a public workshop to discuss a proposed enhancement to the greenway — Bittersweet Way. The project proposal features a highly visible retaining wall with the name “Bishop Grandin Greenway” around a small mound near the road. There will also be a non-paved walking path that departs from the primary trail near the corner of St.Mary’s Road and Bishop Grandin, passes through a young orchard, and sweeps through a wooded area before rejoining the paved trail. One of the primary features is a circular commemorative seating area. It is here that people can relax and view plaques that depict the historical nature of the area in some form.

The name “Bittersweet Way” originated with our pond naming contest two years ago, and refers to a species of woody vine that used to grow in these parts. It is fitting because the project is all about recognizing the natural and cultural history of the area.

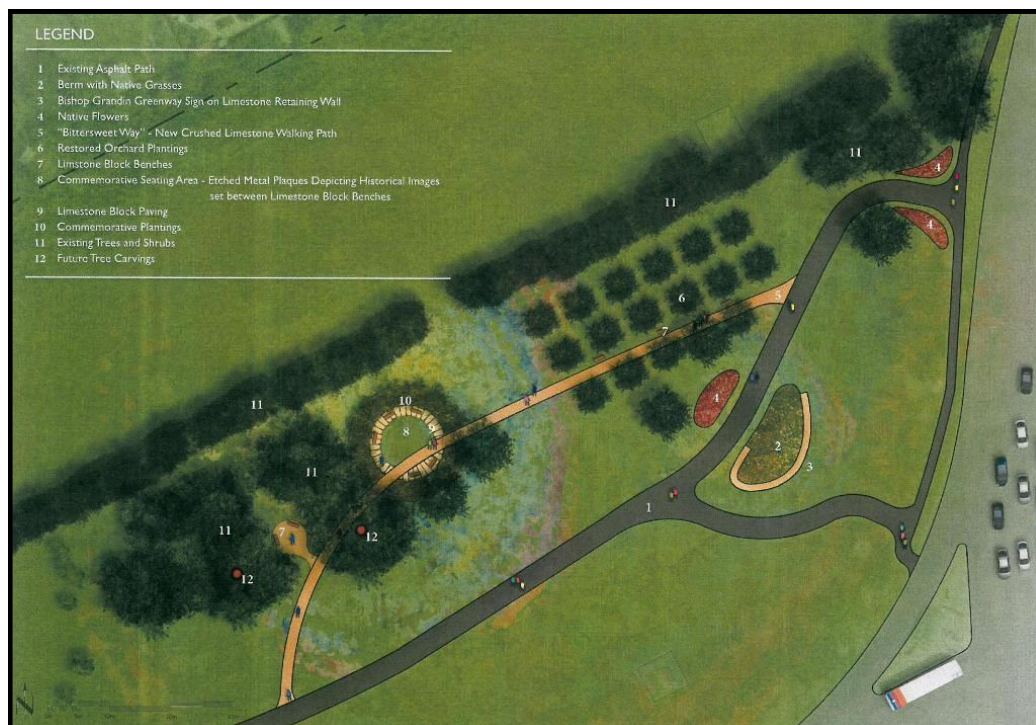
The workshop attracted a small but diverse group of people including a former owner of the homestead property on which Bittersweet Way is located, as well as an archaeologist, members of other community groups, and city councilor Brian Mayes.

The general response was very positive, and there was thoughtful discussion about the aspects of the natural and cultural history of the area and how these can be incorporated into Bittersweet Way.

There will be more opportunity to provide input on the project, as it takes shape over the next three years. If you are the type of person who likes to get their hands dirty, we will also be looking for help in doing the physical work to turn Bittersweet Way into reality.

More information about the project, including some of the input from our workshop and a larger version of the diagram above, will be posted on our website this summer (www.bishopgrandingreenway.com). Feel free to read about it and let us know what you think. Also check back periodically to see if we could use a little help.

We’re pretty excited about this project, that will help people utilize more of the green space while celebrating the rich history of St.Vital.



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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 bishopgrandingreenway@gmail.com for the times and locations of upcoming meetings.

2013-2014 Volunteer Board of Directors

Michelle Meade	President
Derick Young	Vice President
Murray Gibson	Past President
Debbie Svaling	Secretary
Richard Kish	Treasurer
Gord Newton	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.)