



Bittersweet Way: *Completed!*

After several years of planning, Bittersweet Way has become a reality.

The idea of Bittersweet Way first germinated in 2014 as a project that would increase awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the area's historical value and enhance its natural spaces. The vision evolved to include a prominent retaining wall and signage facing the corner of Bishop Grandin Boulevard and St. Mary's Road; and a secondary path leading to a commemorative circle in a grove of trees where visitors will find sign boards taking them on a journey through time.

The process of taking the project from sketches on paper to shovels in the ground was a long and difficult one for this tiny group of volunteers, but we received a lot of help along the way. The City of Winnipeg was instrumental in helping to refine the schematics and design the historical sign boards with bilingual text that accurately described the depicted images.

Also critical to the success of the project was the encouragement and fundraising support of Brian Mayes, City Councillor for St. Vital Ward; and Rochelle Squires, MLA for Riel along with the Province of Manitoba. We would like to thank all who contributed in different ways throughout the various stages of the project.

While some of the trees and shrubs that were planted still need to grow, and additional plantings will be needed to fill out the area, the major components were completed by fall and everything turned out very nicely. **Note:** We are looking for donations to buy plants and shrubs for Bittersweet Way! Please contact us or visit our website to contribute.



Next time you're out for a walk on the Greenway, stroll up the new trail and have a look around!

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www.bishopgrandingreenway.com



bishopgrandingreenway@gmail.com



Friends of Bishop Grandin Greenway



@BishopGrandin

Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc.

'By the community for the community'

Welcoming Winnipeg Wildflowers

Fate brought a new partner to the Greenway last year. When Nicole Webster and Kelly Leask, the coordinators of a new group called Winnipeg Wildflower Project, were looking for a place to start a wildflower garden plot after their original plan fell through, they found a home on Bishop Grandin Greenway.

Located just off the main active transportation trail west of St. Mary's Road, the garden plot started life as a bed of straw but quickly began showing signs of life as wild flowers and grasses grew. Already last fall some seeds were harvested for plantings around the city.

With this being the first full year for the garden on the Greenway, we're anxious to see how it looks this summer. It's a nice addition and something we did not anticipate at the start of the year.

This year, the project is growing beyond Bishop Grandin Greenway with another plot being established in Point Douglas. Anyone interested in helping can contact Winnipeg Wildflower Project at winnipegwildflowers@gmail.com.



Cleaning up on *The Greenway*

Usually in this space we tell you about the great turnout we had for our annual spring clean-up event and the amount of garbage that was collected on the greenway. This year is a little different.



With restrictions related to public gatherings and requirements for physical distancing to stop the spread of COVID-19, we had to rethink our plans. Cancelling the one-morning event entirely was considered, but in the end we decided to re-work the spring clean-up into a week long "come and go" event to allow people to help out on their own or with close family whenever was convenient throughout the first week of May.

The result was fantastic! While we have no official count of volunteers, many bags of trash and other items were left at the designated drop spots for the Bishop Grandin Greenway volunteers to take away.

Despite the unusual format, the Greenway looked just as good at the end of the week-long clean up event as it has any other year. If you were one of those who pitched in, the volunteers and users of Bishop Grandin Greenway thank you!

Our **Annual General Meeting** has been rescheduled to **Tuesday, Sept 8** starting at 6:30, to be followed by our regular board meeting at 7:00. The meeting is open to the public. Check our website for location details.



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Beneath the surface of our Retention Ponds

Andrea Sutherland

It's said that good things come in threes. That certainly is the case for one of the Greenway's most exciting features. Our storm water retention ponds – Apakway Pond, Eagles Pond and Nature's Haven – benefit everyone on the Greenway, from microscopic algae to our feathered friends.

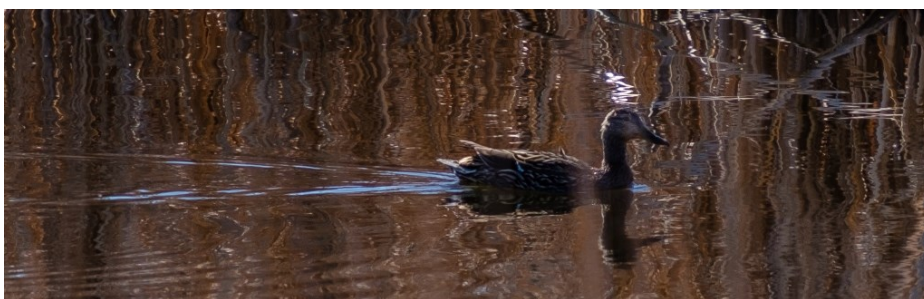
These ponds establish a foundation for the Greenway's ecosystem. Diverse species of algae provide food for water-dwelling organisms like rotifers and insect larvae. Reptiles and amphibians take advantage of the shallow water for reproduction. Waterfowl feed on the duckweed covering the ponds' surfaces and take cover in the rooted plants along their edges.

Of course, this collection of life isn't just an attraction for those passing by on foot or by bicycle; it also invites small mammals and birds of prey. These predators are an important part of the food web and an exciting challenge to spot as you walk along our trails.

These three bodies of water also contribute to the overall health of the ecosystem. Initially designed for storm water retention, they catch and hold runoff during rainy days. This runoff can be polluted with traces of heavy metals, road salts, and sediments, all of which can harm aquatic organisms and their neighbouring ecosystem. Our ponds retain this water for filtration and allow its dissolved sediments to settle.

These ponds also prevent eutrophication, or nutrient pollution. Eutrophication is caused by high levels of phosphorous in runoff, often from detergents, animal wastes and fertilizers. It can lead to harmful algae blooms, like those seen each summer in Lake Winnipeg. Luckily, our naturalized vegetative barrier traps phosphorous. This maintains ecological balance and protects the critters seen along our trails.

As if their aesthetic appeal wasn't enough, much of our ponds' attributes lie beneath their surface. These naturalized ecosystems provided habitat, food, and filtration in a unique urban setting. So, next time you traverse our trails, take a moment to appreciate their incredible contributions to the Greenway and its surrounding areas.



DID YOU KNOW ...

It is the 20th Anniversary of Bishop Grandin Greenway? The non-profit organization was incorporated in 2000 to create an open and accessible green space between the Seine River and the Red River along its namesake boulevard. Check bishopgrandingreenway.com for information about a forthcoming 20th anniversary event and official opening for Bittersweet Way, likely in the fall of 2020.

***NEW:* volunteers and board members!**

Bishop Grandin Greenway would like to welcome Mike Moyes (Community Relations), Nicole Grabowsky, Shirley Miles and Andrea Sutherland. All bring new viewpoints, talents and skills to the team. We're excited about the new energy they bring to the group.



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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 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, and Rotary to name a few.

Monthly Meetings - Open to the Public

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

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Andrea Sutherland

Derick Young

PHOTOS:

Murray Gibson (page 1)

Derick Young (page 2)

Mark Boreskie (page 3)

2019-2020 Volunteer Board of Directors

Michelle Meade

President

Derick Young

Vice President

Murray Gibson

Past President

Debbie Svaling

Secretary

Brian Born

Treasurer

Bruce Garner

Director

Jacqueline Marques

Director

CONTACT:

Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc.

c/o Youville Centre

6-845 Dakota Street

Winnipeg, MB R2M 5M3

Phone: (204) 255-4840

Email: bishopgrandingreenway@gmail.com

Website: www.BishopGrandinGreenway.com

MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT

Annual Membership \$20.00 (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

- **Bittersweet Way Project**
- **Environment: Tree Planting, Restoration, Conservation**
- **Promotion: Fundraising & Community Outreach**
- **History: Research, Education**
- **Special Events: Trails Day, Spring Cleanup**
- **Public Relations: Promotion & Communications**
- **Governance: Board of Directors, Project Management**