



Bishop Grandin Greenway

Winter 2022 Newsletter

Food Forest Planting *Begins*

In the fall of 2020, we held a ceremony to mark the functional completion of Bittersweet Way – our project to add landscaping, roadside retaining wall signage adjacent to St. Mary’s Road and a secondary path leading to a commemorative circle celebrating the history of this location. We are continuing to enhance this notable and accessible area with the planting of a small urban food forest – a regenerative garden of beneficial flowers, shrubs and trees.

With the help of some of our generous supporters we were able to kick off the first phase of planting last fall. This unique project, designed with the help of volunteer Master Gardeners, will feature three separate zones: one with native plants that are indigenous to the area; a second that adds trees or shrubs that settlers may have brought over when they established their homesteads, like the one that stood on this exact spot; and one with a mix of plants representative of current biodiversity in Manitoba.



Our planting this fall was in the second of the three zones, and included edible fruits like saskatoon, cranberry and raspberry, among other larger trees and smaller shrubs that will form the basis of this layered forest garden.

We hope to execute the next phase of planting this fall, but it will be dependent on funding. If you are able to help support this project, please visit our website and click on the **donate!** Button. 100% of what we receive goes back into the Greenway!

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www.bishopgrandingreenway.com



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Friends of Bishop Grandin Greenway



@BishopGrandin



Bishop Grandin Greenway

“By the community, for the community”

Our Annual *Spring Clean-up*

Our annual spring clean-up has become a spring fixture in St. Vital. It is a great way to engage with the community and kick off summer by doing something that benefits everyone!

We had another great turn-out last year on a crisp Saturday morning in May, as we returned to a single morning event from the socially-distanced week-long event of 2020. The results were impressive as usual: dozens of volunteers came together to collect 250 kgs of garbage in just a few hours.

We will continue the tradition this year with a clean-up tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, May 14** – weather and pandemic permitting. Details will be posted at www.bishopgrandingreenway.com.

We hope to see you there!



Bishop Grandin Renaming: an update

Last year may have marked a turning point in Indigenous relations in Canada. The discovery of unmarked graves at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops BC touched off a national conversation about the tragedy of the residential school system and its intergenerational impact on First Nations people in Canada.

Part of that conversation involved the complicated issue of dealing with the legacy of the individuals who were involved with the residential schools – people like Bishop Vital-Justin Grandin, the namesake of Bishop Grandin Boulevard and, of course, our Greenway.

The Indigenous Relations Division of the City of Winnipeg initiated consultations to select a new name for the boulevard and the greenway, as well as Rue Grandin in the Old St. Boniface neighbourhood of Winnipeg. Very early on, the board of Bishop Grandin Greenway came out publicly in support of this effort as a small but notable step towards reconciliation.

Although the process of selecting new names has been slower than some have expected, we can confirm that it is indeed progressing. It is anticipated that the Indigenous Relations Division will submit a report to the Executive Policy Committee this coming spring with recommendations for new names for the boulevard and the Greenway. Further updates will be posted on our website when they become available.





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Community Garden Updates

The “community” aspect of our Eric Street gardens really came through in 2021, in what was, in some ways, a challenging year.

Extremely dry conditions made gardening difficult, but the spirit of helping one another with carrying water and weeding was very encouraging. Lasting friendships were formed among the gardeners, and passers-by were welcomed as they stopped along the way to ask a question or offer a compliment about the beauty of the site.

Unfortunately, we also encountered an unexpected challenge with theft in 2021 as plants and produce disappeared from our garden at a rate we have not seen before. This is discouraging for our gardeners and will require discussion of potential solutions if it continues.

The gardens will remain an important resource in 2022, as the need for safe and healthy outdoor activities will certainly continue. The City of Winnipeg delivered compost for the gardens last fall which will help ensure a productive gardening year in 2022, and demand for garden plots remains strong with regular enquiries from the community.

We hope to do some minor repairs on the raised garden boxes this spring and are looking forward to a great (and hopefully less challenging) summer!

Did You Know?

The Canadian Garden Council has proclaimed 2022 as **Year of the Garden?**

Backed by over 150 letters of support and recognized by a declaration in the House of Commons, the proclamation is intended to “promote today’s vibrant garden culture, and create important legacies for a sustainable future through horticulture.”

Find out more about how to “Live the Garden Life” at www.yearofthegarden.ca

There is **Skiing on the Greenway?**

The Physical Education staff of Dakota Collegiate had been planning to build a ski trail for their students on neighbouring Bishop Grandin Greenway in the winter of 2020-21 but a lack of snow got in the way.

A lack of snow certainly isn’t a problem this year!

The trail is cut around Nature’s Haven Pond east of Dakota Street. It is ungroomed and its condition cannot be guaranteed, but feel free to come by and use it. It’s great to see another form of active living on this reclaimed greenspace!





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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

Derick Young — all except:

Shirley Miles & Derick Young: “Community Garden Updates”

PHOTOS:

Derick Young (page 1&2)

Mark Boreskie (page 3)

2020-2021 Volunteer Board of Directors

Derick Young	President
Michelle Meade	Past President
Michael Moyes	Vice President
Andrea Sutherland	Secretary
Brian Born	Treasurer
Nicole Grabowsky	Community Relations
Jacqueline Marques	Director
Stephane Lacroix-Pouliot	Director
Shirley Miles	Director

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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 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 or get involved, visit 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

- **Food Forest 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**