



# Red River of the North Historic International Canoe Trail

Vision: “The Red River of the North Canoe Trail will provide safe recreational access to the Red River of the North with emphasis on interpretive, historical, and environmental information.”

History:

1935 - Eric Sevareid publishes his book “Canoeing with the Cree”.

October 18, 1998 - At the invitation of River Keepers, a group gathered in Moorhead to discuss raising public awareness for a canoe trail on the Red River, the great natural resource that forms the border between North Dakota and Minnesota. The group consisted of State, County and City government, local organizations, and concerned citizens. Due to the magnitude of the 550 river miles, the group decided to focus on the first 120 miles (Phase 1) from the Headwaters at Breckenridge, Minnesota to Georgetown, Minnesota.

May 1999 - Fargo-Moorhead Canoeing and Boating Map printed.

June 1999 - ND Game and Fish Department provides grant for \$7500 for handicap accessibility at Kidder Recreation Area.

July 1999 - Midtown Dam (Fargo) Retrofit Dedication.

September, 1999 - National Park Service offers assistance in designing a brochure, coordinating public meetings, and technical assistance.

October 1999 - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources approves funding to River Keepers for buoys and warning signs to be placed at lowhead dams.

February 2000 - LCMR grant submitted in the amount of \$476,000 for implementation of a canoe trail between Breckenridge and Georgetown. Not funded.

March 2000 - Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments provides large maps of Phase 1 for presentations.

April 2000 - \$38,000 grant written to ND Parks and Recreation and for \$3000 to Cass County Park Board for campsite south of Fargo. Neither request was funded.

May 2000 - Millennium Tour coordinated by River Keepers. The entire Red River was canoed, complete with celebrations in communities along the River. Received notification that LCMR grant not funded. National River 2000 Celebration paddles incorporated into Millennium Tour.

July 2000 - “In recognition of efforts to bring the community together to honor the past - Imagine the Future the White House Millennium Council recognized The Red River of the North as a Millennium Trail.

Fall 2000—Wahpeton’s Kidder Dam retrofitted.

January 2001 - Millennium Tour video produced.

June 2001 - National Trails Day: the entire Phase 1 of the canoe trail was canoed with a celebration picnic.

Minnesota Legislature appropriates \$100,000 for inventory and mapping of the U.S. portion of the River and signage and site development in Phase 1 and designates the entire U.S. portion a “canoe and boating route”.

Winter 2001 - 2002 - Fargo’s North Dam retrofitted.

February 2002 - Second LCMR grant submitted. Not funded.

Spring 2002 - Wahpeton Parks and Recreation receives Toms of Maine grant for construction of portage around Kidder Dam.

ND Game and Fish allocated \$1500 for canoe access site on Cass County flood buyout property.

Summer 2002 - Abercrombie boat ramp installed.

Fall 2002 - Master Plan for Canoe and Boating Route, United States portion, completed by River Keepers. [www.rrbidin.org](http://www.rrbidin.org).

Spring 2004 - Fargo’s South Dam retrofitted.

Summer 2004 - Map from Breckenridge to Georgetown printed Interpretive kiosks installed in Breckenridge, Moorhead and Georgetown. River mileage and tributary signs installed.

Winter 2005 - \$300,000 passed in Minnesota’s Bonding Bill for access to the Red River from Breckenridge to Pembina.

Spring 2005 - River Keepers coordinated “Recreation on the Red: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” workshop.

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**For more information:**

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