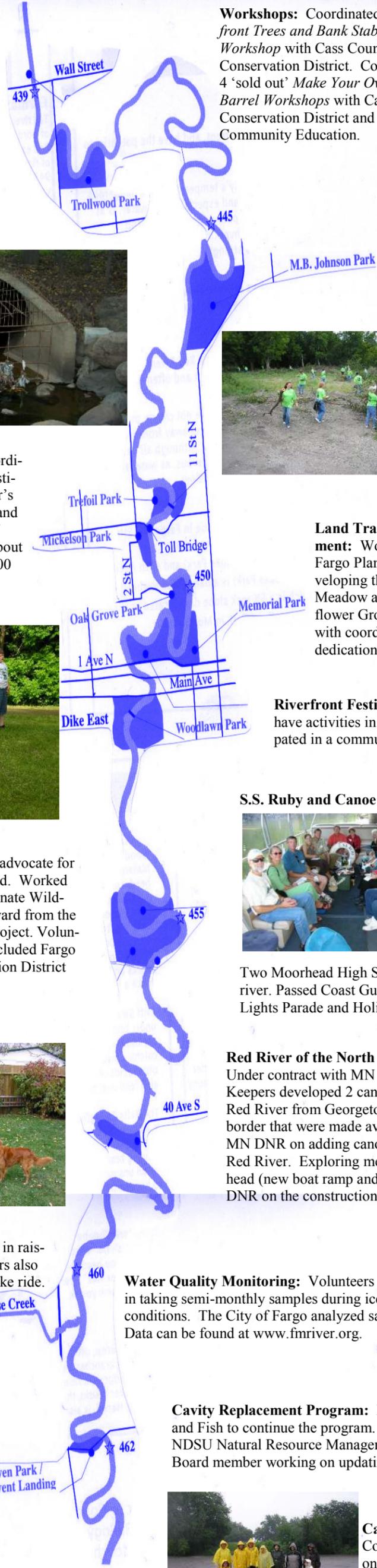


# 2007 River Keepers Activities



**Youth Service Projects:** River Keepers collaborated with Fraiser Hall, Concordia College, Park Christian Elementary, Moorhead High School, Barnesville High School River Watch, Robert Asp, Red River Zoo, Moorhead Library, Bethesda Church Vacation Bible School, NDSU, Charism Boys Club, YMCA, and Boy Scouts of America, on projects related to the water quality monitoring, the Living Lab, storm drain marking program, and the water festival.



**Workshops:** Coordinated a *Riverfront Trees and Bank Stability Workshop* with Cass County Soil Conservation District. Coordinated 4 'sold out' *Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops* with Cass Soil Conservation District and Moorhead Community Education.



**Dam Safety:** We continue to work with Water Task Force and others on Christine and Hickson Dam issues. We worked with MN DNR on using bonding bill money for dam portages and access sites.

**Storm Sewer Education:** We worked with City of Fargo and City of Moorhead to provide the storm drain marking program. Over 200 participants contributed 340 volunteer hours to mark drains. River Keepers also makes presentations to groups to educate citizens about how garbage in yards and streets end up in ditches, storm drains and eventually the Red River.



**Riverfront Clean ups:** Worked with City of Fargo, Fargo Park District and Prairie Heights Church on clean up of the Wildflower Grove Park. Assisted Fargo Park District and City of Moorhead with Adopt-the-Park/Red programs. Worked with Scheels All Sports on multiple on-the-water cleanups. About 195 volunteers contributed over 400 volunteer hours.



**Red River Water Festival:** Coordinated a spring and a fall youth festival because the Hjemkomst Center's roof was being replaced in 2006 and a festival was not held. A total of about 3100 students attended. About 145 people volunteered about 1200 hours.



**Youth Fishing Clinics:** Coordinated a clinic for about 200 youth to complement the Fargo Park District derby at Dike East in June. We also coordinated a youth fishing clinic in conjunction with Moorhead RiverArts in August with 85 participants. Met with Grand Forks park staff on the logistics of coordinating a fishing clinic.



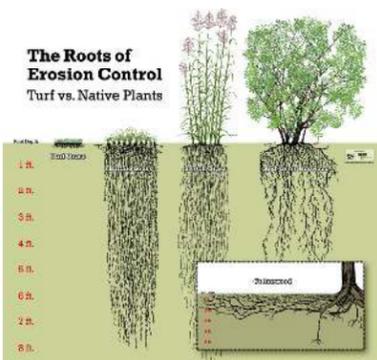
**Riverfront Development:** Continued to advocate for connecting urban redevelopment to the Red. Worked with Fargo Planning Department to coordinate Wildflower Grove Dedication. Received an award from the ND Forest Service for Reforest the Red Project. Volunteers planted about 1000 trees. Partners included Fargo Park District, Cass County Soil Conservation District and the Sierra Club.



**Canoe and Kayak Events:** Organized and managed a fun and a competitive race in conjunction with the Prairie Rose State Games. Coordinated a family canoeing evening with Moorhead Parks and Recreation. Assisted the Red Lake River Rendezvous, a copycat event of the Millennium Tour, with logistics. Received a donated Brigden M-20 racing canoe from our friends in Winnipeg.

**Board Leadership:** River Keepers' Board of Directors were active in raising funds through solicitation and a brat sale. Several board members also led events and activities such as a catfishing class and a riverfront bike ride.

**Living Laboratory:** Designed native plant displays. Moved the info center. Planted an arboretum with help from Cass County Soil Conservation District and Bennett Elementary students. Held training meeting for volunteers to water and weed. Worked with volunteer to design and build 30 interpretive sign frames. Researched, wrote, designed and installed interpretive signs. Coordinated a fall clean up. Wrote technical reports written for the Environmental Protection Agency grant. Trained new site manager. Good Sheppard Church installed a handicap ramp on the info center.



**Land Trail Development:** Worked with Fargo Planning on developing the Grand Meadow and Wildflower Grove. Assisted with coordination of a dedication.



**Riverfront Festivals:** We worked with RiverArts to have activities in Moorhead Tuesday evenings. Participated in a community "art burning" event at Dike East.

**S.S. Ruby and Canoe & Kayak Rentals:** Recruited and trained crew, coordinated marketing, scheduled crew and charters, and maintained ticket booth and watercraft. Assisted Captains in renewing their licenses. Didn't start operations until July, due to flooding. Still, over 1900 passengers heard the narration about the Red River. There were almost 100 canoe and kayak rentals. Two Moorhead High School gym classes rented canoes to paddle the river. Passed Coast Guard inspection. Decorated Ruby for Holiday Lights Parade and Holiday Lights in Lindenwood.



**Red River of the North International Historic Canoe Trail:** Under contract with MN Department of Natural Resources, River Keepers developed 2 canoe and boating maps for the sections of the Red River from Georgetown to Grand Forks and Grand Forks to the border that were made available in spring of 2007. Working with MN DNR on adding canoe/kayak access sites and portages on the Red River. Exploring methods to construct the 2 projects in Moorhead (new boat ramp and North Dam portage). Worked with MN DNR on the construction of boat ramps at Hendrum and Halstad.

**Water Quality Monitoring:** Volunteers assisted in taking semi-monthly samples during ice-free conditions. The City of Fargo analyzed samples. Data can be found at [www.fmriver.org](http://www.fmriver.org).



**Cavity Replacement Program:** Received grant from North Dakota Game and Fish to continue the program. Wood duck boxes were maintained by NDSU Natural Resource Management Club and an Eagle Scout candidate. Board member working on updating GPS coordinates.



**Canoeing, Cooking and Camping:** Coordinated the 2nd women's weekend on the Red River. The weekend was rained/flooded out after the first night.

## Mark your calendars! River Keepers 2008 schedule of events:

- Green Roofs – Inside and Out:** 10 a.m - 1 p.m. on May 6 at Dike East led by River Keepers.
- Race the Red:** 6 & 7:30 p.m. on June 9, Lindenwood to Dike East.
- On-the-water river cleanup:** 6-8:30 p.m. on May 21 from Midtown Dam to North Dam.
- Canoeing, Cooking and Camping:** A women's weekend on the Red River, June 20-22.
- Planning Your Own Green Roof:** 6 - 7:20 p.m on April 22 at the Hjemkomst Center.
- Canoeing on the Red:** July 10 from Lindenwood Park to Viking Ship Park.
- River Keepers Annual Meeting:** 7:30 p.m., April 22 at the Hjemkomst Center.
- RiverArts Fishing Clinic:** August 12 in Memorial Park.
- 2 - Make Your Own Rain Barrel Work-shops:** 6-8 p.m. on April 29 and May 15 at the Living Lab.
- S.S. Ruby Boat Tours and Canoe/Kayak Rentals:** regular operating season runs May 23 - August 31. For more information, call 701-793-RUBY.
- Red River Water Festival:** September 23-26 at the Hjemkomst Center.
- Lil' Fishermen's Derby & Clinic:** 5-8 p.m. on June 2 at Dike East.
- Flower Power Fundraiser:** 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. at Levi Runions Garden Center.

## 2008 Membership - If you haven't done so already, it's time to renew your support of River Keepers!

### SEND FORM BELOW TO:

River Keepers, 325 7th St. S. Ste 201, Fargo, ND 58103-1846

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of participation (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ Steamboat \$50+ \_\_\_\_\_ Skiff \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ Canoe \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Kayak - \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Student—\$20

### OR GO TO:



### 2008 BENEFITS!

- **Paramount Sports** – 10% discount on all regularly priced merchandise.
- **Sheyenne Gardens Nursery** - 10% discount on regularly priced merchandise.
- **Critters Feed and Seed** – 10% discount on all purchases.

## Numbers

**Members:** 231

### Volunteer Hours:

Over 800 people contributed almost 3900 hours to River Keepers' projects and committees.

**Presentations:** Presentations were made to 20 groups, reaching over 350 people.

### Displays & Parades:

We were at 9 community special events, reaching over 22,000 people. The S.S. Ruby was lit up at the Holiday Lights Parade and Holiday Lights in Lindenwood which was viewed by almost 20,000 people.

## Awards Received:

**North Dakota Forest Service:** Tree Celebration of the Year Award for the Reforest the Red Project. Partners included the Fargo Park District, Cass County Soil Conservation District and the Sierra Club.

## Finances

### Sustaining Sponsors:

Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, Southeast Cass Water Resource District.

### Government

**Members:** City of Moorhead, Clay County, Fargo Park District, Moorhead Public Service.

### Jan.-Dec 07

Income	Jan.-Dec 07
SS Ruby/Canoe & Kayak Rentals	\$12,374.50
Memberships	\$10,649.05
Appropriations	\$92,914.56
Contracts	\$18,900.00
Grants	\$8,500.00
Sponsorships/Donations	\$33,291.37
Sublease	\$9,560.39
Misc. Income	\$4,325.81
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$190,515.68</b>

### Expense

Office expense	\$33,573.57
Project Expenses	\$45,072.56
Payroll Expenses	\$119,045.74
Misc. expenses	\$691.97
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$198,383.84</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>-\$7,868.16</b>

\* Note: A deposit of \$23,178.95 was made on 1/2/08 and recorded as income in the 2008 fiscal year.

# 2007 Annual Report

"Promoting a renewed vision for the Red River of the North."

## Awards Presented To:

**River Keepers' Education Award:** River of Dreams Project, International Water Institute

**River Keepers' Environmental Award:** Cass County Soil Conservation District

**River Keepers' Friend of the River:** Bill Mahar

**River Keepers' Volunteer of the Year:** Larroll Leach

## Ruby Crew Captains

**Ex-officio**  
 Ron Sorvaag  
 Lauri Winterfeldt-Shanks

## Full Time Staff

Bob Backman,  
 Executive Director

Christine Laney,  
 Project Coordinator

## Ruby Crew Pursers

Jesse Beckers  
 Christine Laney  
 Donna Toso

## Ruby Crew First Mates

Jesse Beckers  
 Christine Laney  
 Steven Olson