



2002 Annual Report

“Promoting a renewed vision for the Red River of the North.”

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I look back on my first year as President of River Keepers, I'm reminded of the continual effort it takes to make something happen in today's complex world. We all have our own visions of what the Red River is and what it should be and they are not always the same. It has been very interesting and fun through my years of involvement to witness these different perspectives.

Certainly, without a doubt, the staff and members of River Keepers want the Red River to be the best it can be. One of the ways to accomplish this in a world of competing interests and diverse visions is to build partnerships. Because of our limited operating capital, this has been a necessity for River Keepers. Maybe that is a good thing. We can't go off and do our own thing without involving our partners. Instead, we work with the community to build consensus and a common vision for what should be done with our river environment. As a result, effective projects have been developed and fortunately few, if any, mistakes have been made. The price we have to pay is the amount of time and effort it takes to accomplish our goals.

How can we move forward at a faster pace? In my opinion, we must continue to provide ideas and set an example of what can be done. The launching of the S.S. Ruby is a prime example. We must provide the energy to motivate our partners to make our river the best it can be.

As you read the annual report, you'll find many examples of what hard work and effort have achieved. We must continue this into the future.

*Thanks for the opportunity to serve,
Rick St. Germain*



2002 ACTIVITIES

See inside for map and more activities!

- * **Over 500 people provided almost 2500 volunteer hours** to River Keepers' projects, special events and committees.
- * **Annual Meeting:** Held April 24th at Hjemkomst Center. The Main Avenue Bridge Design was presented by Matt Glaesman, and Bill Mahar.
- * **Outgoing board member** recognition was given to: Cliff McLain, Jay Leitch, Sylvia Garcia, and Dan Vogel.
- * **Awards: Education Award** – Moorhead Community Education, Concordia College and George Washington Elementary.

Development Award – Houston Engineering, Inc., City of Fargo, City of Moorhead, Fargo Park District, Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Volunteer of the Year – Ron Saeger, Fargo.

Friend(s) of the River – Neoma Laken and Mike McKibben, both of Breckenridge, Minnesota.

Distinguished Service – Morrie Lanning, Moorhead.

- * **Interns:** Dana Spiekermeier, a Mass Communications major from MSUM, wrote and designed the spring “Mouth

of the River” newsletter. Adam Johnson, Moorhead Senior High, assisted with rebuilding voyageur canoes, bagging wood chips, and water quality monitoring.

- * **Several youth projects coordinated.** Including, Ms. Walswick's Kindergarten class at George Washington in Moorhead worked with Concordia College students to learn about the river, animals, habitat, watersheds, and promoted the river to others.

Board of Directors

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Arlette Preston - Vice Pres.
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Greg Danz
Jack Duis
Jim Kapitan
Don Kilander
Tami Norgard
Cindy Palmer
Rich Pemble
Rocky Swanson
Keith Tandy
Tom Tolman
Jennifer Walz

Staff

Bob Backman
Executive Director
Christine Holland
Project Coordinator
Christina Melaas
Administrative Assistant

2002 River Keepers Activities

FM River: Continued receiving grant funding from Environmental Protection Agency. Other funded partners are the Energy and Environmental Research Center at UND and Prairie Public. The project is a tool to building a greater understanding of the Red River. Quarterly reports submitted to EPA. Communicated the health of the river through presentations, displays, and a webpage (www.fmrriver.org). Thirty second spots regarding volunteers, fish consumption were produced by Prairie Public with input from staff and FM River partners. Working with cities of Fargo and Moorhead on storm drain public education.



Volunteer Training: A water quality monitoring/service-learning workshop was held for high school science teachers. A Red River Basin River Watch manual is being written and designed.



Water Quality Monitoring: Samples taken semi-monthly during ice-free conditions and monthly during ice conditions. Working on TMDL's for the Fargo-Moorhead reach of the Red River with various local, state and federal agencies. Staff worked with various entities on potential sampling sites. Staff communicated with various schools to engage them in River Watch.

Biological Monitoring Workgroup: Moorhead Junior High 8th graders identified and counted macroinvertebrates (river critters). In order to help measure the quality of the river water, artificial habitats were put in the Red and Buffalo River to attract macroinvertebrates.

Riverfront Development: Continued to coordinate the activities of the Fargo Downtown Riverfront Development Committee. The goal is to develop a master plan for between Dike East and Oak Grove. Enhancing the Main Avenue Bridge and making sure it connects to the River has been a focus. Initiated and coordinated bus tour to Sioux City/Sioux Falls for 31 community leaders.



River Splash: *Race the Red* - Worked with committee to coordinate a fun and a competitive race. *Fun For All Fishing Clinic/Lil' Fishermen's Derby* - Worked with Fargo Park District staff to coordinate at Dike East with over 100 youth participants. Worked with Scheels All Sports to coordinate kayak demonstrations.



Dams: Coordinated North Dam Ribbon Cutting. Working with FM Metropolitan Council of Governments Water Task Force to develop a system where the cities of Fargo and Moorhead would be responsible for sign/buoy maintenance.



Cavity Replacement Program: Received grant from FM Area Foundation. Wood duck boxes maintained by NDSU Natural Resource Management Club.



Lions Conservancy Park: Trail outline and outdoor classroom 90% complete. Obtained grant to plant native grasses and wildflowers. Volunteers mulched trees. NDSU students participated in a bank stabilization project.



Parades, Presentations and Displays: Participated in Headwaters Day and the Merry Prairie Lights Parade. Made presentations to over 25 groups reaching over 900 people. Set up displays at 12 special events reaching over 4200 people.

Polar Party: Organized ice fishing demonstrations in February as a part of Moorhead Parks and Recreation's winter festival.



M.B. Johnson Park: After two years of development, interpretive signs completed. Worked with Moorhead Junior High 8th graders on mulching the outdoor classroom. Worked with George Washington 4th graders on identifying Buckthorn.

S.S. Ruby: Recruited captains, trained staff and coordinated random drug testing program. Negotiated with American Sports Outfitters to manage the tour service. Tour Boat Service ran May 17 – September 15. Regular operating hours were Friday – Sunday 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Addressed handicap issue by buying a Roll-a-Ramp. Prepared for and passed Coast Guard inspection.



The Red River Water Festival: Coordinated festival for over 1,300 4th grade students in the Southeast Cass Water Resource District and the Buffalo-Red Watershed District. Sponsored by Project WET, EPA Region 8, Clay County Soil & Water Conservation District - Local Water Plan.

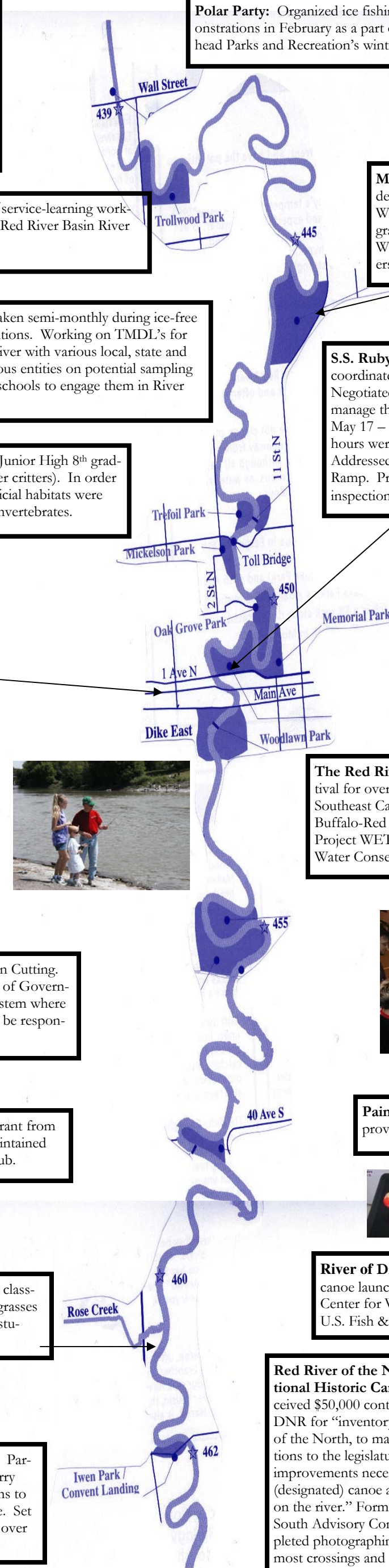


Paint the Drain: Over 250 participants provided almost 450 volunteer hours.



River of Dreams: Coordinated two canoe launches with various schools, Center for Watershed Education and U.S. Fish & Wildlife.

Red River of the North International Historic Canoe Trail: Received \$50,000 contract from MN DNR for "inventory of the Red River of the North, to make recommendations to the legislature on the cost of improvements necessary for the (designated) canoe and boating route on the river." Formed a North and a South Advisory Committee. Completed photographing and GPSing most crossings and existing and potential amenities. Conducted four public meetings.





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FINANCES

Once again this year,
thank you to our sponsors.

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

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

Community members = 175

Annual Operating Budget: \$216,000

PLANS FOR 2003

- * The Annual Meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2003 at the Hjemkomst Center. The program will be "The Riverfront: The Mayor's Visions".
- * Taste of the Valley is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2003 at the Hjemkomst Center and Dike East. Participate in Race the Red, Fun For All Fishing Clinic, Lil' Fishermen's Derby, Kayak Demos and more.
- * Tour the Red aboard S.S. Ruby beginning in May. For more information, call 701-793-RUBY .
- * Grand opening of the first 130 miles of the Red River Canoe and Boating Route.
- * Riparian restoration demonstration project.
- * Fargo Riverfront Development Plan.
- * Main Avenue Bridge construction status.
- * South Dam reconstruction
- * And much more!

**2003 Membership - If you haven't done so already,
it's time to renew your support of River Keepers!**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

Level of participation (check one):
____ kayak - \$15 ____ Scull \$25 ____ Canoe \$50
____ Skiff \$100 ____ Steamboat \$500+

SEND TO:

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