

2021 Annual Report

Mission Statement

To advocate for safe and sustainable use of the Red River.

Vision Statement

All people value our Red River as a vital part of our community.

Core Values

We believe **integrity** and **respect** are inherent in all our core values.

Education: We are dedicated to educating our community by increasing local watershed knowledge through active engagement.

Stewardship: We are dedicated to taking care of our River environment and community relationships.

Leadership: We are dedicated to developing and influencing current and future leaders.

Members

246 members

Volunteers

1358 volunteers contributed over 2900 hours to our projects, events and committees.

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Christine Holland
 Executive Director

Kim Radebaugh
 Project Coordinator

Seasonal Staff

Annie Wodarek
 Outreach Assistant

2021 Statement of Activities

Memberships	\$15,019.98
Appropriations	\$131,000.00
Grants/Contracts	\$35,665.23
Sponsorships/Donations	\$36,611.37
Misc. & Project Income	\$7,344.76
Cares Act - PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$27,000.00
Total Income	\$252,641.34
Office Expense	\$19,707.11
Project Expenses	\$37,982.30
Payroll Expenses*	\$158,962.29
Total Expense	\$216,651.70
Net Income	\$35,989.64

Partner Award

Craig Larson, Craig Larson Landscape Architects; Penny Retzer, Momentum Leadership Solutions; Bryan Leininger, AGL Landscape Architects; Matt Torgerson JLG Architects. Not pictured: Jodi Duncan, Flint Communications.



Goal: Increase public awareness of the Red River, its uses, and water related issues by disseminating accurate information and engaging in educational activities.

Provide educational opportunities:

- Created, with the Moorhead Public Library, our first Story Stroll at Viking Ship Park featuring the book *Hey! Water.*



- Shared information about the Red River at numerous community events, meetings and conferences including Party for the Planet, Midwest Kidfest and Red River Market.
- Created our first Red River Ornament Challenge to promote one of our projects/programs and exploration of riverfront parks. This year's theme was Reforest the Red.



Offer guided tours:

- Partnered with Moorhead Parks and Recreation to offer River Paddling Excursions with hosts Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Red River Zoo and Fargo-Moorhead Audubon and Moorhead Forestry Department.

- Led interpretive group paddling outings.



Goal: Maintain and increase appropriate recreational use of the Red River.

Serve as a source of information about recreation:

- Partnered with FM Walleyes Unlimited to provide the Lil' Fishermen's Clinic and Derby at Dike East and the RiverArts Fishing Clinic at Memorial Park with 100 youth participants.



- Coordinated our first ever Winter Solstice Walk which brought out over 220 participants!



Goal: Advocate land use, river use, and environmental practices that contribute to a sustainable, safe, and economically beneficial river ecosystem.

ghlights

Advocate policies regarding land development and the construction of access sites and portages in locations that provide recreational benefit without causing negative ecological or geological effects:

- Serving on the Study Review Committees for the Moorhead Comprehensive Plan, the Fargo-Moorhead Bike Pedestrian Plan, and the Fargo Greenway Study. Participated in the Natural Resources focus group for the Clay County Comprehensive Plan and in the key stakeholders meetings for the former Mid America Steel site in downtown Fargo.



Encourage best management practices:

- Coordinated Reforest the Red with the City of Fargo, Fargo Park District, Cass County Soil Conservation District, City of Moorhead, Clay Soil & Water Conservation District, and over 400 volunteers to plant almost 5000 trees and shrubs. Recruited volunteers to help plant an edible food forest at M.B. Johnson Park in celebration of Arbor Day with the Moorhead Resilience Task Force.



Credit: Chelsea Joy Photography

- Hosted two Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops, Make Your Own Compost Tumbler Workshops and Pollinator Habitat Workshops for over 55 participants with Clay Soil & Water Conservation District, Cass County Soil Conservation District, and Moorhead Community Education.

Reduce threats to Red River's water quality:

- Marked 1600 storm drains to let people know what not to put down the storm drain and why. Partners are Cities of West Fargo, Fargo and Moorhead.



- Produced 930 totes from T-shirts that were donated, cut, and sewn by 148 volunteers for our T-shirt to Tote Project.
- Partnered with the Fargo Park District, Moorhead Parks and Recreation and Southeast Cass Water Resource District to work with 225 volunteers to pick up over 16,000 pounds of trash along and in the Red River, along drains and in Snakey Creek.



Conduct water quality monitoring:

- Took semi-monthly water quality samples during ice-free conditions with the support of the North Dakota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the assistance of volunteers.

Goal: Provide financial sustainability of River Keepers by securing adequate funding to maintain goals listed above.

Execute fundraising:

- Celebrate Our Red was a successful board led fundraising event held at Gate City Bank's Swiontek Center.

Mark Your 2022 Calendars to

River Keepers Annual Meeting:

Awards will be presented and new board members elected. 5:30 p.m. on April 18 in person or via Zoom. Free event. Registration appreciated.

Resilient Yard Series: Make Your Own Compost Tumbler Workshops:

We will cover the basics of composting. In addition, build and bring home a compost tumbler made from a used plastic 55-gallon barrel. Fee: \$34. 6:00-8:00 p.m. on April 20 at a Moorhead Park. Taught with Clay Soil & Water Conservation District. Supported by Cass County Soil Conservation District. Register with Moorhead Community Education.

Resilient Yard Series: Make Your Own Rain Barrel and Make and Paint Rain Barrel Workshops:

Build and bring home a rain barrel made from a used plastic 55-gallon barrel. Fee: \$34. 6:00-8:00 p.m. on April 27 at a Moorhead Park. Make and Paint Workshop fee: \$59 on May 3 & 10 in West Fargo. Taught with Clay Soil & Water Conservation District. Supported by Cass County Soil Conservation District. Register with Moorhead Community Education.



River Paddling Excursions:

All skill levels welcome. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. Begin at 6 p.m. \$15/person for canoe/kayak rental; \$10/person, if providing own vessel. Backup weather date is one week later. Partners with and registration required with Moorhead Parks and Recreation.

- May 18 - Birds of the Red River, led by Fargo-Moorhead Audubon.
- June 1 & July 6 - Discover the Red River, led by River Keepers.
- June 15 & August 3 - History of the Red River, led by Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County.

- July 20 - Animals of the Red River led by Red River Zoo
- August 17 - Trees of the Red River, led by City of Moorhead Forestry.
- September 11 - Murie Brothers Urban Wilderness (Begins at 1 p.m., different logistics, no back up weather date), led by Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County.

Fargo Arbor Day:

May 20 at Riverwood Park. Partners with City of Fargo, Fargo Park District and Cass County Soil Conservation District. Free event. Volunteer sign ups required.

Arbor Day Party:

May 12 at Rheault Farm. 4:30-7:30 p.m. All ages should come to celebrate Arbor Day with us - tree tours, planting demonstrations, equipment displays, outreach booths, and fun activities for youth. Partners with Fargo Park District and City of Fargo.



Moorhead Reforest the Red:

Help Reforest the Red by planting trees and shrubs in the riparian area. Noon - 4:00 p.m. on May 24. Backup weather date May 26. Partners with City of Moorhead and Clay Soil & Water Conservation District. Free event. Volunteer signups required.

Canoe and Kayak Rentals at Hjemkomst Landing:

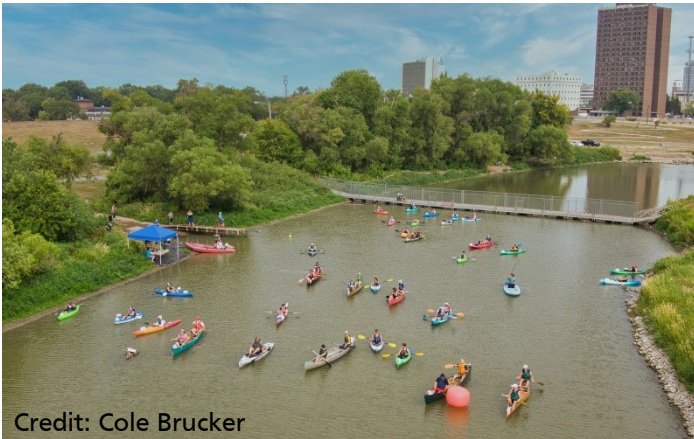
First come, first serve basis. For use at the Hjemkomst Landing only. May 31 - September 10. \$10.00/hour/per vessel. Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:00-8:00 p.m., Saturdays 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Sundays noon -6:00 p.m. Partners with Moorhead Parks and Recreation.

Race the Red Canoe and Kayak Races:

All skill levels welcome. Distances are 1.5, 3.5, or 6 miles. All races begin and end at Dike East. Best decorated contest, prizes and games. June 6.

o Participate and Volunteer!

Backup weather date June 20. Fee to participate. Registration required.



Credit: Cole Brucker

Resilient Yard Series: Pollinator Gardening Workshop:

This two-day workshop is designed for beginners and focuses on what constitutes a pollinator habitat, the importance of landscaping with native plants, and the process of installing a garden from start to finish. Participants will leave with the beginning of their design plan and a pollinator-friendly kit to get started. Fee: \$19 (includes kit) June 7 and 14 or July 26 and August 2 from 6-8:30 p.m. Taught with Clay Soil & Water Conservation District and Cass County Soil Conservation District. Register with Moorhead Community Education.



River Keepers' Catfish Cup Golf Scramble:

A fun event for golfers of all skill levels. Noon on June 13 at Edgewood Golf Course. \$100/golfer. Pre-registration required.

Lil' Fishermen's Clinic & Derby:

Learn the basics of fishing at a clinic from 5:30-6:30 p.m., then try land a big one at the derby from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. June 21 at Dike East in Fargo. Partners with FM Walleyes Unlimited. Free event.

RiverArts Fishing Clinic:

Youth and their families are invited to learn the basics of fishing and try land the big one! 5:30-8:00 p.m. on July 26 at Memorial Park in Moorhead. Partners with FM Walleyes Unlimited and Moorhead Parks and Recreation. Free event.

On-the-Water Cleanup:

Experienced paddlers who are willing to get wet and muddy. 5:30 p.m. on August 29. Backup weather date August 31. Volunteer sign ups required. Free event.



Fargo Reforest the Red:

Volunteer to plant trees and shrubs! Noon - 7:00 p.m. on September 7 at Lindenwood Park. Backup weather date September 8. Partners with City of Fargo, Fargo Park District and Cass County Soil Conservation District. Free event. Volunteer signups required.

Red River Water Festival:

The Red River Water Festival facilitates awareness, appreciation, knowledge, exploration and stewardship of our natural resources with a focus on how water interacts with both the human and natural environments. September 20-23, 26. Registration required for 4th grade classes. Free event. Volunteer sign ups required.

Winter Solstice Walk: December 21 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Trollwood Park. Free. Registration not required.



Stay tuned for more details on upcoming fishing tournaments, a story stroll, a new urban water cycle geocache series and Celebrate Our Red.

2021 Members, Partners, Sponsors

Sustaining Sponsors

Buffalo-Red River
Watershed District
Southeast Cass Water
Resource District

Government Members

Fargo Park District
City of Moorhead
City of Fargo
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riverkeepers.org/volunteer/



Credit: Chelsea Joy Photography

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