



2023 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

217 members

Volunteers

1466 volunteers contributed 3970 hours to our projects, events and committees.

That's almost two full time employees!



Credit: Jeffrey Miller

Board of Directors

Jill Wilkey, President
 Courtney Neitzke, Vice Pres.
 Daigen Afdahl, Sec/Treas.
 Michael Maddox, Past Pres.
 Julia Delonais
 Mike Ferrie
 Brian King
 Amy Kronbeck
 Lindsey Lee
 Boe Miller
 Sandie Salisbury
 Jennifer Sweatman
 Shannon Thornton

Full Time Staff

Christine Holland, Executive Director
 Kim Radebaugh, Project Coordinator

2023 Statement of Activities

Memberships	\$16,885.95
Appropriations	\$131,000.00
Grants/Contracts	\$60,483.49
Sponsorships/Donations	\$46,523.01
Misc. & Project Income	\$8,598.21
Total Income	\$263,490.66

Office Expense	\$24,058.07
Project Expenses	\$47,971.74
Payroll Expenses	\$177,751.93
Total Expense	\$249,781.74

Net Income	\$13,708.92
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Friend of the River Award Presented to Brad Durick



2023 Hi

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

- Received a grant from the HDR Foundation for 8 natural and 9 historical interpretive signs installed along Moorhead's River Corridor Trail. Partnered with the City of Moorhead, and the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County.



- Received media coverage for 19 different events or topics.
- Provided information about the Red River and River Keepers through Enews, website, Facebook, Instagram and numerous presentations.
- Led 10 interpretive snow shoeing, hiking or paddling events. Partnered with Moorhead Parks and Recreation to offer River Paddling Excursions with hosts Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Red River Zoo and Moorhead Forestry Department.



- Coordinated the Red River Water Festival for over 2550 third and fourth grade students from 36 schools with the assistance of 149 volunteers and major sponsors ND Project WET and Xcel Energy.
- Created an Outreach Ambassador Program to increase our outreach potential by attending 12 community events.



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

- Rented canoes and kayaks with Moorhead Parks and Recreation at Hjemkomst Landing, almost doubling the number of renters from 2022.



ghlights

- Assisted City of Moorhead with a new floating dock at M.B. Johnson Park funded by Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission.



New dock at M.B. Johnson Park.

- Coordinated Race the Red three flag races with 1.5 miles, 3.5 miles and 6 mile distance options.
- Partnered with FM Walleyes Unlimited to provide the the RiverArts Fishing Clinic to 40+ youth participants.
- Coordinated the 3rd Annual Winter Solstice Walk which brought about 650 participants to M.B. Johnson Park.

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

- Partnered with Fargo Park District, Moorhead Parks and Recreation, Southeast Cass Water Resource District and volunteers to pick up almost 2,800 pounds of trash along and in the Red River and drains.



On the Water Clean up volunteers.

- Hosted three Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops, a Make Your Own Compost Tumbler Workshop, and a Make and Paint Rain Barrel Workshop and with Clay Soil & Water Conservation District. Supported by Cass County Soil Conservation District.

- Distributed almost 1700 T-shirt Totes at community events or through local businesses and organizations that were donated, cut, and sewn by volunteers in our T-shirt to Tote project.
- Marked 291 storm drains to let people know what not to put down the storm drain and why. Partnered with Cities of West Fargo, Fargo and Moorhead plus numerous volunteers.
- 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 539 volunteers to plant 5200 trees and shrubs.



Reforest the Red Fargo. Credit: Megann Schlenvogt

- Took semi-monthly water quality samples during ice-free conditions with the support of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 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.

- Established and monitored fundraising goals for by using an integrated and widespread approach.



Aggie Foundation provided gaming funds to support our education and outreach efforts.

Mark Your 2024 Calendars to

River Keepers Annual Meeting

New board members elected and attendees will participate in a fun activity to learn about our youth education, April 16 at 5:30 p.m. at Carlson Library in Fargo. Free event.

NEW River Keepers Monthly Volunteer Series

The first Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m., we will be showcasing one of our ongoing volunteer projects. Training provided. Meet other volunteers. Volunteer sign ups required. More dates TBD.

- **Event Prep on April 4:** Prepare supplies for various events including Race the Red, Resilient Yard Series Workshops, and the Red River Water Festival. Tasks include: creating supply bags, laminating, folding, taping, cutting and hole punching
- **Storm Drain Marking Program May 2.**
- **Bank Clean up on June 6.**



Goldmark employees preparing Red River Water Festival supplies.

Resilient Yard Series: Make Your Own Compost Tumbler Workshop

Build and bring home a compost tumbler made from a used plastic 55-gallon barrel. We will also cover the basics of composting. Fee: \$59 or \$54. April 23 from 6-8 p.m. at a Moorhead Park. Taught with Clay Soil & Water Conservation District. Register with Moorhead Community Education. Supported by Cass County Soil Conservation District and Moorhead Parks and Recreation.

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. Taught with Clay Soil & Water Conservation District. Register with Moorhead Community Education. Supported by Cass County Soil Conservation District and Moorhead Parks and Recreation.

- **Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops** are April 30 or May 7 from 6-7:30 p.m. Fee: \$34 or \$30.
- **Make and Paint Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop** is May 14 and 21 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Fee: \$59 or \$54.

Fargo Arbor Day Ceremony

May 17 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Madison Elementary. Partners with City of Fargo, Fargo Park District and Cass County Soil Conservation District. Free event. Volunteer sign ups required.

Reforest the Red Moorhead

Help reforest the Red by planting trees and shrubs in the riparian area at 1003 River Dr. S. from noon-4 p.m. on May 23. Backup weather date May 30. Partners with City of Moorhead and Clay Soil & Water Conservation District. Free event. Volunteer signups required.

Canoe/Kayak Rentals at Hjemkomst Landing

First come, first serve basis. For use at the Hjemkomst Landing only. May 28 - September 7. \$10.00/hour/ per vessel. Tuesdays and Thursdays 4-8 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sundays noon-6 p.m. Partners with Moorhead Parks and Recreation.

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. Back up weather date is one week later. Partners with and registration required with Moorhead Parks and Recreation.

Dates and themes are as follows:

- **Recreation of the Red River** May 29, led by Midwest Outdoors.
- **Birds of the Red River** June 12, led by Audubon Great Plains.
- **History of the Red River** June 24, led by Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County.



A family enjoying the History of the Red River Paddling Excursion.

o Participate and Volunteer!

- **Discover the Red River** July 10, led by River Keepers.
- **Animals & Habitats of the Red River** July 24, led by Red River Zoo.
- **Gentle Mind of the Red River** August 7, led by CIM Yoga.
- **Conservation of the Red River** August 21, led by Midwest Outdoors.
- **Trees of the Red River** September 4, led by Fargo Park District.

River Keepers' Catfish Cup Golf Scramble

A fun event for golfers of all skill levels at noon on June 10 at Edgewood Golf Course. Fee: \$100/golfer. Pre-registration required.

Lil Anglers Clinic and 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 13 at Dike East. Partners with FM Walleyes Unlimited. Free event.



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 on June 17 at 6:30 p.m. Backup weather date July 15. Fee to participate. Registration required.

RiverArts Fishing Clinic

Youth and their families are invited to learn the basics of fishing and try fishing in the Red River from 5:30-8 p.m. on July 23 at Viking Ship Park. Partners with FM Walleyes Unlimited and Moorhead Parks and Recreation. Free event.

Ruler of the Red Fishing Tournament

During the month of August catch any species of fish on the Red River between Cass 22/Clay 26 and Cass 16/Clay 8; take a picture with you, the fish and the river. Post or email the picture to enter for your chance to win one of six \$50 Scheels gift cards. Partners with FM Walleyes on the Red River. Free event.

On-the-Water Cleanup

Experienced paddlers willing to get wet and dirty on August 5 at 6 p.m. Backup weather date August 12. Volunteer sign ups required. Free event.

Red River Water Festival

Third and fourth grade classes from private and public schools participate in hands on activities to learn all about water. September 17-20, 23-25. Registration required for 4th grade classes. Volunteer sign ups required.



Reforest the Red Fargo

Volunteer to plant trees and shrubs on September 18 from noon-7 p.m. at North River Grassland. Backup weather date September 19. Partners with City of Fargo, Fargo Park District and Cass County Soil Conservation District. Free event. Volunteer signups required.

Celebrate Our Red

A FUNdraiser with a silent auction, raffle, hors d'oeuvres buffet, beer, and wine. Date TBA. Swiontek Center in Gate City Bank. Tickets required.

Winter Solstice Walk

December 21 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. at M.B. Johnson Park. Free event. Registration not required.



/ or [facebook.com/RiverKeepersFM](https://www.facebook.com/RiverKeepersFM)

2023 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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 Aldevron
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 Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation
 Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre

Fargo Moorhead Opera
 Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau
 Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
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 Rough Cut Social Club
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Ways to Support Us...



Credit: Jim Smith



Volunteer

riverkeepers.org/volunteer/

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Invite us to give a presentation!



1120 28th Ave. N., Ste. B
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Legacy Endowment Fund

Did you know there is a way you can make an even bigger, more lasting difference? With significant tax savings, you can give more and give forever. Through the North Dakota Charitable Income Tax Credit, you can claim a credit of 40% on a minimum donation of \$5,000 to a qualified endowment; River Keepers has such an endowment. If you'd like to learn more about the 40% tax credit and how you can turn this year's giving into a forever gift, please contact Christine Holland at 701.235.2895 or Christine@riverkeepers.org.

