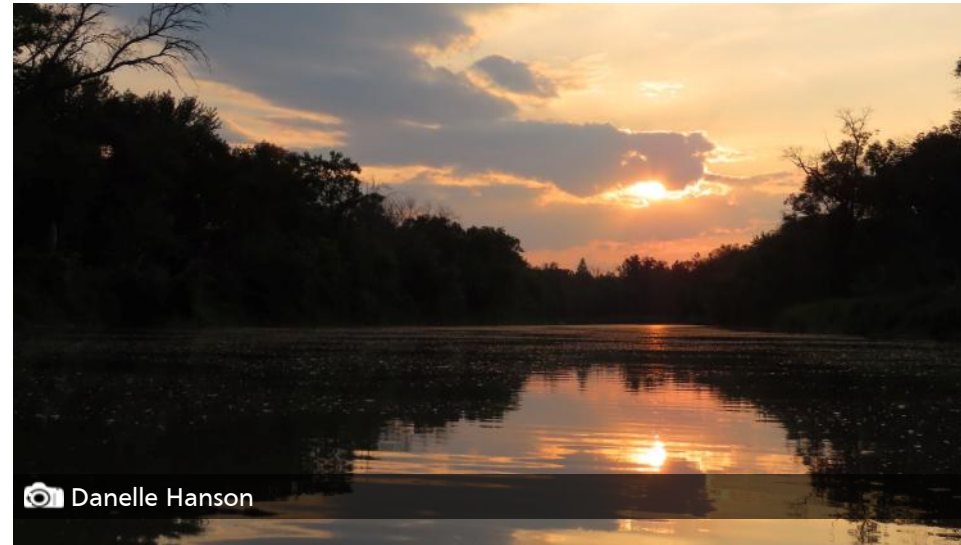




2024 Annual Report



📷 Danelle Hanson

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

Collaboration: We are dedicated to fostering relationships and building community by demonstrating respect and integrity in all endeavors.

Education: We are dedicated to increasing knowledge and utilization of the Red River ecosystem through active engagement.

Stewardship: We are dedicated to preserving and improving the Red River ecosystem through active engagement.

Members

231 members

Volunteers

1,572 volunteers contributed 4,433 hours to our projects, events and committees.

That's OVER two full time employee!

Board of Directors

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

Full Time Staff

Christine Holland,
 Executive Director

Kim Radebaugh,
 Project Coordinator

2024 Statement of Activities

Memberships	\$16,988.64
Appropriations	\$150,000.00
Grants/Contracts	\$44,855.00
Sponsorships/Donations	\$37,136.64
Misc. & Project Income	\$7,793.31
Total Income	\$256,773.59
Office Expense	\$24,383.92
Project Expenses	\$42,049.81
Payroll Expenses	\$180,532.84
Total Expense	\$246,966.57
Net Income	\$9,807.02

Friend of the River Award Presented to Linda Norland



Goal: Increase public knowledge of River Keepers, along with the use and conservation of the Red River.

- Increased our community outreach with the help of Outreach Ambassadors and Activity Assistants allowing us to participate in 13 community events.
- Coordinated a mini spring Red River Water Festival plus the regular fall event for almost 1,700 fourth grade students from 27 schools with the assistance of 105 volunteers and major sponsors ND Project WET and Xcel Energy.



- Coordinated "A River" Story Stroll in the fall with Moorhead Parks and Recreation and the Moorhead Public Library.
- Led four interpretive riverfront hikes.



Goal: Advocate best management practices for a sustainable river ecosystem.

- Distributed almost 1,400 T-shirt Totes at community events or through local businesses and organizations that were donated, cut, sewn, and labeled by 253 volunteers in our T-shirt to Tote project. Created new iron-on labels.

- Partnered with Fargo Park District, Moorhead Parks and Recreation, Southeast Cass Water Resource District and volunteers to pick up over 2,600 pounds of trash along and in the Red River and drains.



- Marked 484 storm drains and distributed doorhangers to let people know what not to put down the storm drain and why with the help of over 60 volunteers. Partnered with Cities of West Fargo, Fargo and Moorhead.
- Planted 3,930 trees and shrubs with assistance of 481 volunteers. Partners: City of Fargo, Fargo Park District, Cass County Soil Conservation District, City of Moorhead, and Clay Soil & Water Conservation District.
- Taught 48 participants in the Resilient Yard Series Workshops coordinated with Clay Soil & Water Conservation District. Supported by Cass County Soil Conservation District and others.



Highlights

- 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.



Water quality monitoring at Cass 16/Clay 8.

- Conversed with several local staff and elected leaders regarding camping, garbage, and lights along the downtown riverfront.

Goal: Encourage and increase safe recreational use of the Red River Corridor.



Ruler of the Red Fishing Tournament entry.

- Reformatted the Ruler of the Red Fishing Tournament and received 35 entries. Partnered with FM Walleyes Unlimited. Sponsored by Scheels.
- Coordinated the Lil Anglers Clinic & Derby and the RiverArts Fishing Clinic with FM Walleyes Unlimited for 78 youth participants.

- Coordinated the 4th Annual Winter Solstice Walk which brought 225 carloads of people to M.B. Johnson Park.
- Planned for Race the Red canoe and kayak races, River Paddling Excursions, and Canoe & Kayak Rentals at Hjemkomst Landing but cancelled them because of fast moving water.

Goal: Provide financial viability to accomplish River Keepers' current and future goals.

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



Celebrate Our Red in the Swiontek Center at Gate City Bank. Shannon Thornton.

Goal: Maintain a framework for the organization that creates a foundation to accomplish the mission statement.

- Started using SignUpGenius to make it easier for volunteers to sign up for specific opportunities.
- Switched to a more encompassing database.
- Created a Monthly Volunteer Series to allow for individuals to make connections with other volunteers and promote our regular volunteer opportunities.



Monthly Volunteer Series: event preparation.

Mark Your 2025 Calendars to Learn About

River Keepers Annual Meeting

New board members elected, updated mission statement reflected in the Bylaws voted upon, and hear about the City of Moorhead's GreenStep program and river corridor happenings. April 24 at 5:30 pm at Xcel Energy in the Black Building on Broadway in Fargo. Free event.

River Keepers Monthly Volunteer Series

The first Thursday of the month from 5:30—7:30 pm, 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 3:** 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 on May 1.**
- **Riverbank Cleanup on June 5.**

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 pm at a Moorhead Park. Taught with Clay Soil & Water Conservation District. Register with Moorhead Community Education. Supported by Cass County Soil Conservation District, Moorhead Parks and Recreation and others.

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



Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop.

Soil & Water Conservation District. Register with Moorhead Community Education. Supported by Cass County Soil Conservation District, Moorhead Parks and Recreation, Red River Valley Fairgrounds and others.

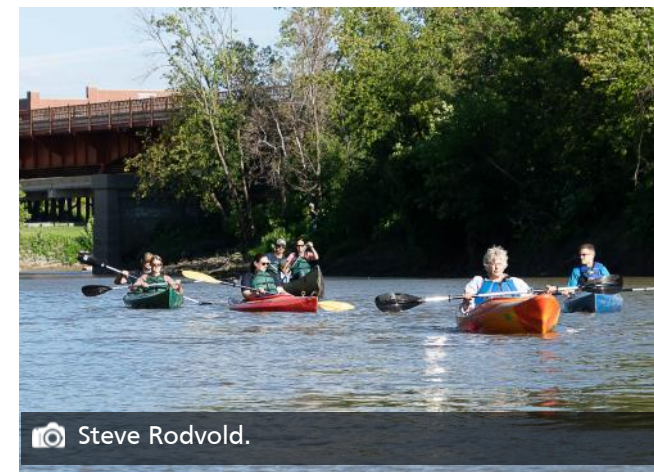
- Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops are April 28 or May 7 from 6—7:30 pm. Fee: \$44 or \$39.
- Make and Paint Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop is May 14 and 21 from 6—8:30 pm. Fee: \$69 or \$64.

Fargo Arbor Day Ceremony

May 16 from 9:30—11 am at Village West Park. Partners with City of Fargo and Fargo Park 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 River Oaks Park from noon—4 pm on May 20. Backup weather date May 29. Partners with City of Moorhead. Free event. Volunteer signups required.



Steve Rodvold.

Canoe/Kayak Rentals at Hjemkomst Landing

First come, first serve basis. For use at the Hjemkomst Landing only. May 27—September 6. \$10/hour/per vessel. Tuesdays and Thursdays 4—8 pm, Saturdays 11 am—6 pm and Sundays noon—6 pm. Partners with Moorhead Parks and Recreation.

River Paddling Excursions

All skill levels welcome. Arrive at 5:30 pm. Begin at 6 pm. \$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

Join, Help Sustain and Enjoy the Red River!

Recreation. Dates and themes are as follows:

- **Birds of the Red River** May 28, led by Audubon Great Plains.
- **Animals & Habitats of the Red River** June 11, led by Red River Zoo.
- **Social on the Red River** June 25, led by Midwest Outdoors.
- **History of the Red River** July 7, led by Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County.
- **Trees of the Red River** July 23, led by Fargo Park District.
- **Gentle Mind of the Red River** August 6, led by CJM Yoga.
- **Discover the Red River** August 20, led by River Keepers.

River Keepers' Catfish Cup Golf Scramble

A fun event for golfers of all skill levels at noon on June 9 at Edgewood Golf Course. Fee: \$125/golfer. Pre-registration required.



Catfish Cup Award Winners, Simply Made Apps.

Lil Anglers Clinic and Derby

Learn the basics of fishing at a clinic from 5:30–6:30 pm, then try land a big one at the derby from 6:45–7:45 pm June 18 at Dike East. Partners with FM Walleyes Unlimited. Sponsored by Scheels and Brewer-Agre Outdoors. 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 23 at 6:30 pm. Backup weather date July 21. Fee to participate. Registration required.

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 Red River. Post or email the picture to enter for your chance to win one of six \$50 Scheels gift cards. Partners with FM Walleyes. Free event.

On-the-Water Cleanup

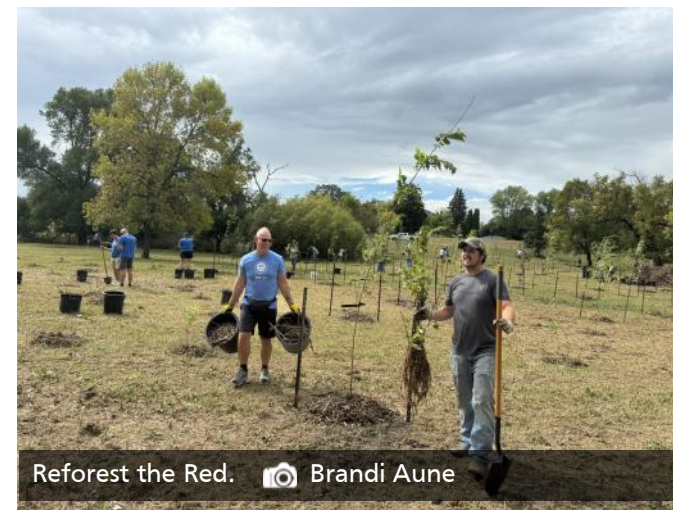
Experienced paddlers needed on August 4 at 6 pm. Backup weather date August 11. Volunteer sign ups required. Free event.

Red River Water Festival

Fourth grade classes from private and public schools participate in hands on activities to learn all about water. September 16–19, 22–24. 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 pm. Backup weather date September 19. Partners with City of Fargo, Fargo Park District and Cass County Soil Conservation District. Free event. Volunteer signups required.



Reforest the Red. Brandi Aune

Celebrate Our Red

A FUNdraiser with a silent auction, wine pull, 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 pm at M.B. Johnson Park. Free event. Registration not required.

2024 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

AE2S
AGL Landscape Architects P.C.
Aldevron LLC
Alpha Delta Kappa - Delta Chapter
Amazon Fulfillment
ASN Constructors
Audubon Great Plains
The Aum Massage
Bell Bank
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Border States
Borrowed Eye Photography
Boulger Funeral Home
Boy Scout Troop 647
Burian and Associates, LLC
Busch Agricultural Resources, LLC
Cass County Electric Cooperative
Cass County Soil Conservation District
Clay Soil & Water Conservation District
Coca-Cola Bottling Company High Country
Concordia College
Conservation Minnesota
Dakota Speciality Mills
Dawson Insurance, Marsh & McLennan Agency
Doosan Bobcat
Enough with the Stigma
Experience Moonglade
Fargo Force
Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre
Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau
FM Symphony Orchestra
F-M Walleyes Unlimited
Friendship Inc
Gate City Bank
GOLDMARK Property Management
Golf Addictions
Haga Kommer, Ltd.
Happy Harry's Bottle Shops
HDR
The Historic Downtown Moorhead Dairy Queen

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County
Houston Engineering, Inc.
Ignite Church
Industrial Builders, Inc.
International Water Institute
Jade Presents
John Deere
KLJ
Kraus-Anderson Construction Company
Loffler Companies
Madison Elementary
Marvin
MBN Engineering, Inc.
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Moore Engineering
Moorhead High School Environmental Club
Moorhead Public Service
NDSU
NDSU Campus Ministry
NDSU Kappa Alpha Theta
NDSU Volunteer Network
Noridian Healthcare Solutions LLC
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
North Dakota Department of Water Resources
North Dakota Section American Water Works Association
Plains Art Museum
Pragmatic Cleaning LLC
Preference Employment Solutions
PRx Performance
R.D. Offutt Company
RDO Equipment Co
Red River Basin Commission
Red River Human Services Foundation
Red River Retention Authority
Red River Valley Alliance
Red River Valley Fairgrounds
Resonance Sound Healing
Ride Cycle Studios
Rough Cut Social Club
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Sharon Lutheran Church
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Simply Made Apps
SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
St. John's Church
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Suite Shots

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Trollwood Performing Arts School
U.S. Bank
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riverkeepers.org/volunteer/



Become a member

riverkeepers.org/membership/



Invite us to an event!

riverkeepers.org/support/



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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.

