



General

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

Last Update

17 Apr 2017 07:27:16

Park or Trail Name

Red Lake River Corridor

District

2

Location Description

The trail follows the Red Lake River from its mouth at Red Lake through Pennington, Red Lake and Polk Counties, to its confluence with the Red River of the North. It connects the cities of Thief River Falls, St. Hilaire, Red Lake Falls, Crookston, Fisher and East Grand Forks.

Park/Trail Address

City

Park/Trail State

Zip

Latitude

47.89275141

Longitude

-96.3085556

Map of Park/Trail

Description: RLRC SegmentDescriptionMap

[RLRC SegmentDescriptionMap_bd8480.pdf](#)

Facility Website

<http://www.redlakerivercorridor.org/>

Organization

Red Lake River Corridor Joint Powers Board

Lead Contact Person

Shannon Stassen

Title

City Administrator

Mailing Address

124 North Broadway

City

Crookston

State

Minnesota

Zip

56716

Phone

(218) 281-1232

Joint Applicants**Joint Applicant #1**

Cities of Thief River Falls, St Hilaire, and Red Lake Falls

Joint Applicant #2

Cities of Crookston, Fisher and East Grand Forks

Joint Applicant #3

Polk, Red Lake and Pennington Counties

Joint Applicant #4

Red Lake Watershed District

Other project supporters

Local Public Health in Polk, Red Lake and Pennington Counties

Riverland Tourism Association

Economic Developers

University of Minnesota Extension, Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership

Northwest Regional Development Commission

Email

sstassen@crookston.mn.us

Description

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

Regional Significance Statement

Classification

Regional Trail (Motorized and Non-motorized)

Overview/Description of Park or Trail

The Red Lake River Corridor experience can best be understood as a composition of land, water, and people. As the river travels to the west the composition of the physical landscape, waterscape, and cultural landscape types change in nature. The change in character is the result of the variety of compositions present as one proceeds through the Red Lake River experience. The experience of these relationships tell a story of time, people, land, and water that is truly unique to this region of the state.

The 175 mile Red Lake River Corridor Trail provides a variety of river experiences and has a number of communities on the river, therefore a segment strategy was developed for the trail. Canoeists can travel the entire length of the river or select a shorter route using segments. Segments are based on landscape characteristics, historic sites, community locations, river slope and vegetative cover. The segments are depicted on the attachment, RLRCSegmentDescriptionMap.

The river trail serves paddlers, especially in the segments above the lake plain, and both paddlers and small motor boats in the lower reaches. Each of the communities provides opportunity for land/water interface activities. Birders and fisherman enjoy the water from shore. Bikers and hikers can follow community-scale trails in many of the communities. There are campgrounds, picnic areas, swimming pools and playgrounds. Winter activities include cross country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing and snowmobiling. In each community, it is a short walk to cafes, shops and libraries. A listing of city and county parks, and the amenities at each is

included in attachment RLRCCityParks. These public lands are important points of access to the river.

The existing facilities provide river access in the communities, and a connection between the water trail and adjacent parks and trails. There is a need for additional river access points upstream and downstream of communities to enable more day-use of the river. Further, there is a need for trailheads at the land/water interface to provide signage and interpretation as well as parking, bathrooms and shelter.

Trail development goals align with community development and public health. Many partners share a common goal in promoting an active lifestyle and offering amenities that support it. The Red Lake River Water Trail offers a low cost, accessible option for those seeking a healthy activity and enjoying abundant wildlife and scenic landscapes.

Each community hosts celebrations and events that feature the Red Lake River and activities, providing a foundation of programming. The Red Lake River Water Trail benefits from the long standing existence of the Riverland Association, providing marketing and promotion of the Water Trail and activities associated with the region and river. The reach of this organization includes the upper Midwest and Manitoba.

This broad partnership will be strengthened with the designation of the Red Lake River Corridor as a regionally significant trail, and more complete master planning efforts to follow.

Total Acreage or Mileage

Acquisition and Development Status

Development status

Facility Listing

This section provides an overview of existing and proposed site facilities and general site characteristics .

Existing Facilities

- Camping-cross-section of camper types
- Electric/water/sewer RV sites
- Electric/water campsites
- Non-electric campsites
- Group campsites
- Tent only sites
- Camper Cabins

- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Walking Trails (paved)
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Biking Trails (paved)
- Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
- Cross-country Skiing Trails
- Horseback Riding Trails (natural)
- Swimming
- Lake Access for power boats
- Canoeing Facilities
- Fishing Piers
- Visitor Center

Proposed Facilities

- Camping-cross-section of camper types
- Electric/water/sewer RV sites
- Electric/water campsites
- Electric campsites
- Non-electric campsites
- Group campsites
- Tent only sites
- Camper Cabins

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- Nature Center/Interpretation Trails
 - Play areas, with an outdoor theme
 - Dog Parks
 - Archery/Shooting ranges
 - Climbing (natural/man-made)
 - Zip Lines
 - Restrooms/sanitation building
 - Roads and Parking Areas

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General Site Characteristics

Master Plan

Additional Supportive Information:

Classification Details

Regional Trail (Motorized and Non-Motorized) Classification

Provides a High-Quality "Destination" Trail Experience

The Red Lake River Water Trail Provides unique features, significant distance and access to services located at several communities along its 175 mile corridor for both paddlers and boaters.

Traveling the Red Lake River offers an opportunity to experience the three major biomes of the North American Continent. Each of these biomes has distinctive plants, animals and landscapes.

The river begins at the Lower Red Lake in a coniferous forest near the western edge of the coniferous forest biome of pine, spruce and some aspen. It flows westward through the deciduous forest biome of oak, aspen and red maple. The landscape flattens as the grassland biome begins. The river winds back and forth through the tall grass prairie which continues beyond the Minnesota/North Dakota border. Elm and cottonwood trees are found along the banks of this stretch of the river. Plant and animal communities are particularly diverse at the points where biomes meet each other.

The water trail provides a variety of river experiences for a variety of skill levels and ages. From fast water, rock rapids areas to very slow meandering areas, this water trail has something for every water enthusiast. Anglers enjoy a variety of species to choose from, including Channel Catfish of significant size.

Motorboating, a variety of paddling options and tubing all are featured along the Red Lake River. Historic Old Crossing Treaty Park near Huot offers one of the five campgrounds along the Red Lake River. Each of these campgrounds includes a boat ramp and additional boat ramps are available at strategic locations along the river. Several carry-in locations exist as well for paddling access. Six communities along the Red Lake River provide river facilities and recreational resources for users of the water trail. Each segment between communities offers attractive features for users.

Well-located (i.e., Convenience of Access/Adequate Length) to Serve Regional Population and/or Tourist Destination

The Red Lake River Water Trail is well located to serve both a larger regional population living along the river and to serve as an excellent tourist destination. The following communities are located along the Red Lake River: Thief River Falls, St. Hilaire, Red Lake Falls, Crookston, Fisher and East Grand Forks. Three of these communities have a population of approximately 8000 and the aggregate total population served by these six communities represents a large portion of the total population in Northwest Minnesota.

Each of these communities provides services for river travelers such as food, supplies and in most cases, lodging facilities. Boaters have access at approximately 10 boat landings along the water trail. Anglers will find fishing tackle, bait, gas and other essentials within most river communities. Paddlers will find outfitting services and replacement equipment in the larger communities.

The Water Trail offers an ideal experience for those seeking a remote, natural experience for all seasons of the year. A large segment of the water trail is accessible for both motorized and non-motorized aspects even in years of low water across the state. From the Beach Ridge east of Crookston to East Grand Forks the river slows dramatically and is still passable in low flow times. Fishing is good here with Channel Catfish, pike, walleye, small mouth bass, drum and goldeye available. Fishing with a motorboat is recommended along this segment of the trail because of the distance between access points. Ice fishing, snowmobiling and cross country skiing are very popular along the Water Trail throughout the winter months, making the Red Lake River a year round attraction and amenity.

The region is a traditional get-away for travelers from

southern Manitoba, as well as Minnesota and North Dakota.

Enhances Connectivity to Regional Destinations

The Red Lake River Water Trail provides connectivity to several trails of significance and regional destinations. Both residents and travelers will benefit from increase access of both motorized and non-motorized activities along the water trail as they coordinate their activities with other local attractions.

Travelers experiencing the Red Lake River will also have a wide array of options to choose from to enhance their experience.

Both Thief River Falls and Crookston are located along the Pine to Prairie Birding Trail which runs from central Minnesota into Manitoba. Travelers from around the world come to experience birding and other wildlife, many times in wetlands associated with the Red Lake River.

Glacial Ridge, the largest prairie and wetland restoration in North America, is located adjacent to the water trail as well as Rydell National Wildlife Refuge. Features include and Interpretive Center, natural and paved trails and 24,000 acres of public land.

The King of Trails Highway 75 Scenic Byway bisects the water trail at Crookston and brings many travelers to the region.

The Prairie Passage Scenic Byway is a 600 mile trail that passes through five states and bisects the Red Lake River Water Trail at Crookston.

East Grand Forks and the "??Grand Cities" ? area is a retail shopping hub for the region and attracts many Canadian tourist each year.

Red Lake Falls features Voyagers View campground and river tubing along with the Bottineau Trail, a paved multi-use trail in a very scenic area.

Thief River Falls is known for its outdoor activities such as hunting, birding and river activities. Seven Clans Casino also attracts many guests each year.

Many tourist destinations already exist along the Red Lake River Water Trail and its enhancement will provide a synergistic effect for each amenity. Clearly, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. .

Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within a Region

The Red Lake River Water Trail offers many excellent trail experiences but also has much room for growth and improvement. The Water Trail is still underutilized for its capacity and many gaps remain that limit its potential currently.

The efforts of the Red Lake River Corridor Joint Powers Board along with funding from a variety of

sources will address the following gaps to improve access for both motorized and non-motorized use. We will increase the total number of access points along the Water Trail to provide an option for shorter excursions. Some segments of the trail are recommended for motorized transport only because of the distance between access points.

A gap exists in the understanding of the public that the Water Trail is available for use during all seasons of the year.

A documented need for increased physical activity throughout Minnesota and in particularly in NW Minnesota exists and leads to health issues in our population. Increased access to the Water Trail is a step toward improving this condition.

A gap in understanding and acceptance of the river exists in our region. For many years the river was seen as destructive and dangerous. Through education and outreach efforts, we can reverse this perception and encourage users of all ages and abilities to enjoy the Water Trail.

Finally, communities that embrace the river and capitalize on its assets will become more vibrant and livable for residents. The economic impact extends not only to tourism but attracting and retaining people to core businesses in NW Minnesota and the greater communities. These core business are big job creators so there there is added benefit.

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Letters Of Support	Compiled set of 7 letters of support	1461954912711-Letters of Support.pdf
Joint Organizations Responsibilities Pho	Joint Powers Agreement	1467286164785-JointPowersAgreement.pdf
Joint Organizations Responsibilities Pho	Member of Red Lake River Joint Powers Board	1467286200555-Red Lake River Corridor Joint Powers Board.pdf
Park Trail Map	RLRC SegmentDescriptionMap	RLRC SegmentDescriptionMap_bd 8480.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Feedback from trail users	RLRCSurveyFaves_ca58b9.jpg
Regional Map Uploads	DNR Map of Red Lake River	Red Lake River DNR Guide and Map_19c320.pdf
Economic Development Tourism Upload	2016 Econ Dev/Tourism material	RLRC Economic & Tourism Development_c7e375.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	RLRC Development and Acquisition Budget Estimate	Red Lake River Corridor Development and Acquisition Budget Estimate_abc936.pdf

Recreational Trends Upload	MNPaT Frame NW	MNPaT-Frame-NW_bd0a3c.pdf
Programming Plan Upload	River of Dreams	2016 River of Dreams 1-page_3f1872.pdf
Programming Plan Upload	Community Paddle	Community Paddle Flyer_085494.pdf
Regional Map Uploads	RLRC Existing and Proposed Facilities	RLRC existing and proposed facilities_final_a197ff.pdf
Regional Demographic Upload	Demographics	Demographics_a1909d.pdf
Public Health Values Upload	PNM AdultBehavSurvey_HighlightedExecSummary	PNM AdultBehavSurvey_HighlightedExecSummary_f5df2c.pdf
Public Health Values Upload	PNM_CommHealthImprovPlan_Highlighted	PNM_CommHealthImprovPlan_Highlighted_113909.pdf
Recreational Trends Upload	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan_Minnesota DNR	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan_Minnesota DNR_7c81c3.pdf
Acquisition Plan Overview Upload	RLRC Development Plan Map	6.23.16 RLRC Development Plan Map_7141e5.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Intro	rlrc_introduction_21510d.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Region	rlrc_region_dd123e.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Corridor	rlrc_corridor_5abbd6.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Corridor Identity	rlrc_corridor_identity_d1f5fb.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Community Overview	rlrc_community_overview_c1bbe0.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Thief River Falls	rlrc_thief_river_falls_4868a9.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	St. Hilaire	rlrc_st_hilaire_e94cf0.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Red Lake Falls	rlrc_red_lake_falls_a7ea54.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Crookston	rlrc_crookston_c4fc31.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Fisher	rlrc_fisher_475055.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	East Grand Forks	rlrc_east_grand_forks_5dfd0d.pdf
Development Feature Upload		Revised CAMPSITE CONCEPT_final Render-24x36_Compromised_bf9b29.pdf

Joint Org Responsibilities Upload

Red Lake River Joint Powers
Board

[Red Lake River Corridor Joint
Powers Board_cfd754.pdf](#)