



Project History

The RiverLake Greenway project is a grassroots effort to develop green space and an alternative transportation route within the existing public right-of-way in south Minneapolis. It is an integral part of the Minneapolis 5-year Bike Plan to provide a safe, designated system of bike routes for commuter and recreational bicyclists. The \$2 million, 4.5-mile-long pathway will connect the Mississippi River to Lake Harriet and pass through six diverse neighborhoods, mostly along 40th Street: East Harriet Farmstead, Kingfield, Bryant, Bancroft, Standish/Ericsson and Longfellow. The logic of this connection is evident on a map. The corridor runs midway between two other east-west routes, the Midtown Greenway paralleling 29th Street, and the Minnehaha Creek corridor.

The RiverLake Greenway concept began in 1996 in the Kingfield neighborhood. That neighborhood's section was constructed in 2003, followed by an East Harriet-Farmstead extension in 2004. Construction costs of \$450,000 were paid with Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds. A preliminary design of the entire route was completed with assistance from consultant Sanders Wacker Bergly, Inc. in 2005 with funds provided by NRP, the Laura Jane Musser Fund and the McKnight Foundation.

The entire project was expected to be financed NRP funds. Changes in NRP Phase II made that impossible, forcing the volunteer organizing committee to look for alternate construction funding. This will supplement \$100,000 in commitments that the remaining four neighborhood organizations have made to the project. In 2006 the City of Minneapolis received notification of a \$1 million federal Transportation Enhancement grant award for RiverLake, made through a regional solicitation process. The grant is for construction in 2010. The city, with strong support from Mayor Rybak, has budgeted \$250,000 to match the federal money. Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) granted the project \$400,000 in spring 2007, meaning the project is fully funded.

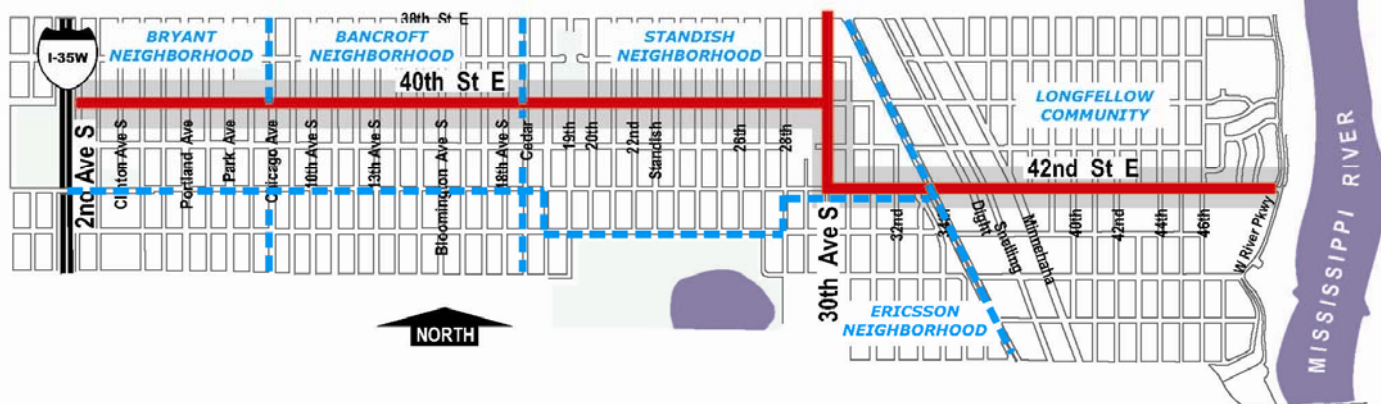
To date, the Greenway has been an all-volunteer effort, supported by individual neighborhood groups. Volunteers raised the funds and organized broad-based planning workshops that resulted in project construction in two neighborhoods and completion of a master plan that defined the unifying features and design of the Greenway for the remaining four. These features include: bike lanes and signs; parking and traffic calming bump-outs; boulevard trees and plantings. Gardeners, bicyclists and community activists have recognized the potential for improving their individual neighborhood while working together to build a remarkable city asset.

The RiverLake Greenway project is a successful model for replication, leveraging other resources, and building community consensus. There is an increasing interest in alternative transportation routes, many of which grow from community involvement. The RiverLake project is an excellent example of a project that leverages human and financial resources from the community to achieve a desired goal. The project is also a fascinating example of the potential for using existing public right-of-way for diverse modes of transportation.

What next? The route along 40th Street takes advantage of the only pedestrian and bicycle bridge across 35W and connects five city parks. It also connects riders to north-south bicycle corridors. The route east of Cedar Avenue faces more neighborhood-specific design issues, including circulation around Roosevelt High School, connection to the Hiawatha light rail line at 38th Street, safely crossing Hiawatha Avenue and determining the best route to West River Road.

During 2008 residents in the Bryant, Bancroft, Standish/Ericsson and Longfellow communities will develop a final design to complete the project. Public meetings will be held, with overall direction of these activities coordinated by a Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC will be comprised of three representatives appointed by each neighborhood group and one appointee per neighborhood by each affected City Council member. Minneapolis Public Works staff will guide the CAC.

Riverlake Greenway Bicycle Project Phase III - Location Map



Project Schedule

January 10, 2008	Community Meeting 1- Form Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
March 2008	Plans 30% Complete
May 2008	Community Meeting 2 - Update the larger community on progress of the CAC
June 2008	Plans 60% Complete
November 2008	Community Meeting 3 - Present final draft of plans to the larger community
January 2009	Plans 90% Complete
April 2009	Final Plans, Specifications and Engineer's Estimate to MnDOT
November 2009	Advertise & Open Bids
March 2010	Community Meeting 4 – Preconstruction Meeting
April 2010	Begin Construction
November 2010	Complete Construction

* The CAC will be meeting on a monthly basis

Project Contacts

COUNCIL

Ward 8 Council Member: Elizabeth Glidden (612-673-2208) Elizabeth.Glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Ward 12 Council Member: Sandy Colvin Roy (612-673-2212) Sandra.Colvin.Roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

PUBLIC WORKS

Principal Engineer: Jack Yuzna P.E., City of Minneapolis Transportation Planning and Engineering (612-673-2415)

Project Engineer: Stephanie Malmberg P.E., City of Minneapolis Transportation Planning and Engineering (612-673-3365)

Water Resource Administrator: Lois Eberhart, City of Minneapolis Surface Water and Sewers (612-673-3260)

Supervising Engineering Technician II: Bill Cherrier, Transportation Planning and Engineering (612-673-3979)

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Bancroft Neighborhood Organization

(612) 724-5313

Donna Sanders, Community Director
dsanders@bancroftneighborhood.org
www.bancroftneighborhood.org

Bryant Neighborhood Association

(612) 824-3453

310 E. 38th Street #127
Minneapolis, MN 55409
Brian Pasko, Board President
brian@paskolaw.com
No Web Site

Longfellow Community (LCC)

(612) 722-4529

Melanie Majors, Executive Director
Melanie@longfellow.org
www.longfellow.org.

Standish/Erickson (SENA)

(612) 721-1601

Directors
Shirley Yeoman - shirley@standish-ericsson
Bob Kambeitz - bobbymail@comcast.net
www.standish-ericsson.org

Project Web Site

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip/riverlake>