

RIVER'S EDGE TRAIL

A 2022 year-end report to our supporters



Greetings River's Edge Trail Supporters

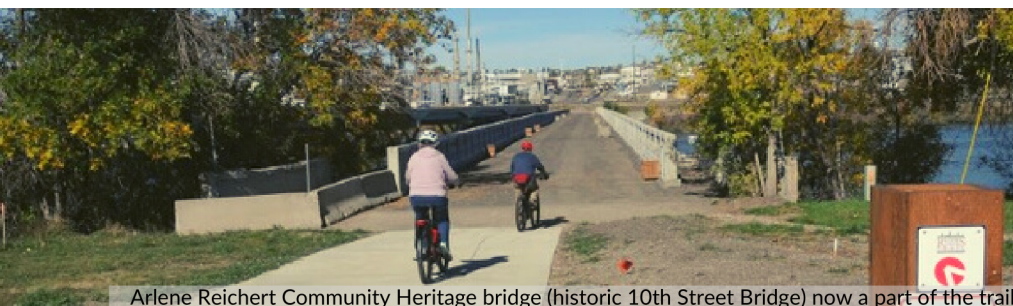
In October, River's Edge Trail celebrated its 31st birthday. That's 31 years of building, improving, maintaining, and enhancing our great trail system.

Throughout these decades our mission has remained the same: to provide trails for people to explore Great Falls' outdoor opportunities and to improve the community's quality of life.

The Foundation continues to be governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. That simply means that every dollar donated goes to the trail. By providing matching funds for large projects, we are able to leverage an average of \$10 for every \$1 donated to the Foundation.

Out on the trail, you can see your donations in action. From the massive bank erosion mitigation project near Calumet Refinery, to the addition of the historic 10th Street Bridge to the trail system and the new artwork installations along both banks of the river. And we have more in the planning phase, including the complex trail realignment project near Broadwater Bay and several resurfacing projects.

We are grateful beyond words for your ongoing generosity and support for River's Edge Trail.



Arlene Reichert Community Heritage bridge (historic 10th Street Bridge) now a part of the trail

This issue:

Projects completed in 2022

Upcoming needs

How to get involved

Foundation Board Members

Bruce Pollington, President
Anders Blewett, Vice President
Debbie Corn, Treasurer
Sheila Kelly, Secretary
Ron Nelson
Chuck Jennings
Becky Nelson
Sarah Yoder
Steve Beaumont
Ben Graybill
Steffen Janikula, Trails Coordinator



DONATE ONLINE AT [THETRAIL.ORG](https://thetrail.org)

A look back at what we accomplished with your support

for every dollar donated the River's Edge Trail Foundation procures \$10 of grant funds

Luminaria Walk

We continue to grow this free, family-friendly event for the community. This event is to encourage utilization of the trail by getting people familiar with the trail. More than 1,500 luminaria decorated by local students line the trail.

Memorial Gazebo in Oddsfellows Park

Funded by donations and labor of trail family and friends.

Bike Repair Stations

Two new bike repair stations have been installed thanks to a Montana Trails Stewardship Grant. You'll find them at the West Bank Trailhead and South Shore trail in addition to the original repair station still available at the boxcar.

New Single Track.

Have you checked out the Rocky Road trail yet? It is the newest trail in the South Shore single track system. Big THANKS to Ed Henry and his merry band of trail builders.

North Bank Stabilization Project

The mitigation project to correct river bank erosion and associated bank slumping is underway as of this writing and should be completed as soon as weather permits. In addition, the Foundation will be involved in the trail repaving project once the mitigation work is complete.



North Bank Stabilization Project

Historic 10th Street Bridge Connector

On September 27 of 2022, the Historic Tenth Street Bridge was officially connected to River's Edge Trail at both the North and South ends at a ribbon cutting ceremony held on the South approach.



Rocky Road Single Track Trail

Rainbow Trailhead Spring Mitigation

Drainage issues caused this parking lot to become mostly unusable. The water issues were resolved and the parking lot has been filled and leveled so that it is once again accessible for trail users.

Updates and Maintenance

The Park and Recreation Trail crew continued their great work on trail maintenance including asphalt sealing, tree planting, signage, trash pick-up, and landscape maintenance including recent improvements to Tourist Park.



Rainbow Trailhead Spring



A LOOK FORWARD: 2023 PROJECT GOALS

Replacing the oldest parts of the trail

We continue to work on replacing the original segment of trail on the railroad berm bordering Elks Riverside Park. This segment of trail, including the bridge, was celebrated at the official grand opening of the River's Edge Trail on October 13, 1991.

It is currently quite degraded and beyond sealing. It needs to be replaced completely. Next steps are either capping the current asphalt with several inches of fresh asphalt or removing the current asphalt and replacing it with new.

Wilbert Graf Trail Safety Fund

Wilbert Graf was an avid River's Edge Trail user. According to his nephew, Alan Graf, he ran on the trail almost every day. For his 90th birthday, Wilbert set a running goal of 10% of his age, nine miles. He ran the nine miles and didn't stop until he had almost reached the ten mile mark.

Wilbert loved River's Edge Trail enough that he left a substantial gift to the Foundation in his will. We used that gift to establish a new fund titled The Wilbert Graf Trail Safety Fund. Funds will be restricted for improvements in safety along River's Edge Trail.

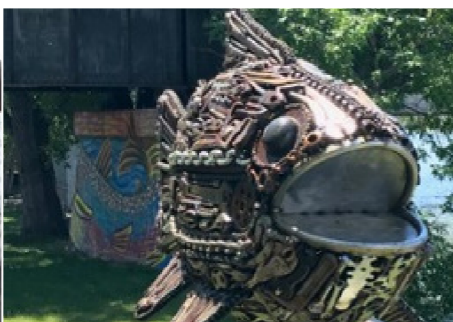
We are grateful to Wilbert and all the other generous donors who allow RETF to develop, maintain and encourage utilization of River's Edge Trail.



Bike repair station on South Shore Trail



New trail along River Dr.



ADDITIONAL WAYS TO SUPPORT THE TRAIL

Memorials in the circle of giving

A memorial in the Circle of Giving includes a 4"x6" cast bronze marker for \$550.00. Larger marker sizes will be considered for approval through the Park and Recreation Department, call (406) 771-1265.

Endowments

River's Edge Trail Foundation Endowment offers you the opportunity to support the trail for generations to come. RETF will accept and manage charitable gift annuities. Contact Debra Corn at dcorn@mtcpas.com

Share your photos of recreating on the trail

Our mission includes increasing the utilization of the trail. We encourage you to share your photos and favorite places on the River's Edge Trail on your social channels. #riversedgetrail

Leave us a review

Do you have a favorite stretch of the trail? Sections to visit for the best photo opportunities or to get out of the wind? Share your love of the trail with others by reviewing the River's Edge Trail on Google and Trip Advisor. Leaving a review helps others discover what a great resource we have right here in Great Falls!

Use the contact form to let us know of issues

Our Trail Coordinator Steffen along with the Park and Rec Department does a fantastic job of maintaining the trail. But it is a big job! If you notice something that needs to be addressed, let us know with our Report a Problem form at thetrail.org/contact.

Get in Touch

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Learn more:
thetrail.org
River's Edge Trail Foundation
P.O. Box 553 Great Falls, MT 59403

To donate to the Trail fill out
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