Executive Summary

Introduction and Background

The Red River in Manitoba is well known for the pivotal role it played in shaping and defining the history, culture and economic development of Western Canada. For thousands of years, Aboriginal peoples travelled the Red River and its tributaries, followed by the voyageurs, explorers, York boatmen, Métis buffalo hunters, loggers, steamboat operators, immigrant groups, and tourists, to list but a few. Many significant historical events, structures, place names and architectural sites are identified in association with the Red. These values are unique to the River and representative of major Canadian historical themes.

In 2005, the entire length of the Red River in Manitoba, from Emerson at the international border north to Netley Marsh at Lake Winnipeg, was nominated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) in celebration of the River’s significant cultural heritage values.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is a cooperative program of the federal, provincial and territorial governments, established in 1984, to give national recognition to the important rivers of Canada, to conserve the best examples of Canada’s river heritage and to encourage the public to learn about and appreciate Canada’s rivers.

Preparation of this document, the Red River Designation Document: A Management Approach for the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River, has been undertaken by Rivers West - Red River Corridor Association Inc./L'Association du Corridor Rivière Rouge (Rivers West), with the support of the province of Manitoba. Rivers West is a not-for-profit, non-government organization with a mandate and vision focused on a cooperative planning approach towards managing Red River heritage and tourism resources.

The Designation Document has been prepared to outline a Rivers West led Management Approach for the Red River that is consistent with CHRS objectives, satisfying CHRS requirements for officially designating the Red River a Canadian Heritage River.

Managing the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River

The Red River Management Approach clearly demonstrates the commitment of Rivers West in taking the lead role as facilitator and advocate in working with Red River Management Partners – including governments, First Nations, stakeholders and citizens with interests in the Red River or currently working with Rivers West and/or supporting the River’s Designation process - to conserve, interpret and promote the river’s cultural heritage values for which it was
nominated. The *Management Approach* also addresses the River’s significant natural heritage and recreational values.

The *Management Approach* is structured according to the CHRS value sets for Cultural And Natural Heritage and Recreational Values and outlines what “We” all are currently doing to conserve and promote Red River Values. “We” includes Rivers West as well as identified *Management Partners*.

The *Management Approach* is framed around current Goals, Objectives and Management Actions and Strategies undertaken by Rivers West to fulfill it’s mandate for conserving and promoting Red River Values. The roles of Rivers West and *Red River Management Partners*, comprising the various jurisdictional responsibilities and respective authorities in the Red River corridor, is outlined. Conservation and management “tools” – including actions, strategies, legislation, policies and practices - currently undertaken or utilized by Rivers West and *Management Partners* are key to the *Management Approach*.

The *Management Approach* does not propose any new legislation, policy or practices to be undertaken or enacted by Rivers West or identified Management Partners. All existing and future landowner rights, Métis rights, First Nation aboriginal and Treaty rights, leasehold rights, permits and rights-of-way are respected and not to be affected by the *Management Approach* and CHRS designation.

**The Management Area**

A Red River *Management Area* has been identified for where Rivers West and *Management Partners* will focus conservation and management efforts around conserving Red River values. The *Management Area* is a corridor, primarily defined by one of the River's most significant cultural heritage values – the historic Red River river-lot settlement pattern. The majority of the management area stretches out approximately 2 miles (1.25 kilometres) from each bank of the river, representing the extent of remnant river-lot boundaries found throughout the River corridor. The Management Area also includes the City of Winnipeg, the City of Winnipeg Floodway and natural landscapes of Netley Marsh included within the provincial boundaries of the Netley Marsh Public Waterfowl Shooting Grounds.

**Moving Forward**

Managing the Red as a Canadian Heritage River will require the continued efforts of Rivers West, and the support of *Management Partners* and all stakeholders and citizens in the Red River region, working together towards common goals for conserving Red River values. Rivers West must continue to act as the “Voice” of
the Red River, communicating the need for a greater “duty of care” to be exercised by all in conserving Red River values.

Rivers West, with the support of the province of Manitoba and Red River Management Partners, will conduct annual reporting on the status of cultural heritage values for which the river was nominated to the system, as well as the River’s natural heritage and recreational values. Monitoring Reports will be prepared every 10 years describing the status or river values, the degree to which the Management Approach has been implemented by Rivers West and whether the integrity of Red River values has been maintained to ensure continued designation as a Canadian Heritage River.
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1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 Red River Designation Document

In August 2005 the Red River was officially nominated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS), celebrating the River’s outstanding cultural heritage values.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is a cooperative program established in 1984 to give national recognition to rivers which have outstanding cultural and natural heritage values and provide significant recreational opportunities.

The nomination was put forth to the CHRS by Rivers West - Red River Corridor Association Inc./L'Association du Corridor Rivière Rouge (Rivers West) and the province of Manitoba in recognition of the Red’s nationally significant cultural heritage values.

For the Red to become officially designated a Canadian Heritage River following nomination, the CHRS requires that a Designation Document be prepared. A Designation Document must outline how the river will be managed to conserve the values for which it was nominated to the system.

This document – *A Management Approach for the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River* - has been prepared by Rivers West, with the support of the province of Manitoba, as an official Designation Document.

The following sections of the document outline a *Management Approach* to be led by Rivers West in working with *Red River Management Partners* to conserve, preserve and promote Red River cultural heritage values as a Canadian Heritage River. The Approach also addresses the River’s significant natural heritage and recreational values not included in the river’s nomination.
1.2 Rivers West - Red River Corridor Association Inc./L'Association du Corridor Rivière Rouge (Rivers West)

Rivers West is a not-for-profit, non-government organization, incorporated in 1999.

Since its inception, Rivers West has been working to achieve an approach to cooperative planning and management of Red River heritage and tourism resources.

Rivers West has been successful in implementing a number of initiatives in this regard. Examples of completed studies and projects include:

- **Routes on the Red** - Red River cultural and natural heritage and recreational values self guided tourism brochures.
- **Red River Greenway – A Strategy for Development.**
- **A Tourism Destination Conceptual Plan for Fort Dufferin, Fort Dufferin Campground and the Town of Emerson.**
- **Red River Eco-System – Grades 4 & 8 Curriculum Guides.**

Rivers West concentrates its efforts along the length of the Red River corridor in Manitoba, from Emerson at the international border north to Netley Marsh at Lake Winnipeg. The corridor also represents the entire length of River nominated to the CHRS.

The mandate and vision of Rivers West includes:

*The mandate of Rivers West is to develop and implement a long-term tourism and conservation strategy focusing on the development, promotion and management of the natural, tourism, cultural/heritage and recreational resources of the Red River from Emerson to Lake Winnipeg.*

*Rivers West's vision is to make Manitoba's Red River corridor a destination. Rivers West will work with stakeholders to create and promote a corridor along*
Manitoba's Red River that connects people with communities and attractions as well as the conservation, recreation, economic and tourism resources of the corridor.

Rivers West is committed to increasing and promoting access to the Red River and the resources found within the valley and to ensuring that these are worth accessing.

To meet this commitment, Rivers West is embarking upon a strategy which focuses on marketing and promotion; cultural/heritage preservation and enhancement; tourism and economic development; and conservation (including flood mitigation and restoration of riparian habitat).

The mandate and vision of Rivers West reflects the role the organization currently plays in working to successfully conserve and promote Red River values. In this regard, the focus of Rivers West includes the following initiatives:

• Preserving, restoring, and/or developing the natural, cultural/heritage, recreational and tourism resources in this region.

• Marketing and promoting the Red River corridor as a tourism destination.

• Directing conservation, education and stewardship initiatives for the development of the Red River Greenway.

• Lobbying/advocating for the sustainable development, management and use of the river.

• Promoting economic development opportunities along the corridor, including the development of communities, facilities and infrastructure.

• Assisting communities and organizations with obtaining financing to support greenway development initiatives.

Given its current and future role in the Red River region of Manitoba, Rivers West is committed to taking a lead role in preparing and implementing a
Management Approach for the Red River that is consistent with the objectives of the CHRS.

1.3 Purpose of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS)

The objectives of the CHRS are to give national recognition to Canada’s important rivers and to ensure their future management such that:

• the cultural heritage which they represent is conserved and interpreted;
• the natural heritage which they represent is conserved and interpreted; and
• the opportunities they possess for recreation and heritage appreciation are realized by residents of and visitors to Canada.

The federal government, all provinces and territories participate in the program. Participation in the CHRS is voluntary and participants retain traditional jurisdictional powers, including land ownership and management.

The Parks and Natural Areas Branch of Manitoba Conservation manages the CHRS program in Manitoba.

Currently, there are 3 rivers designated Canadian Heritage Rivers in Manitoba: The Seal, Bloodvein and Hayes Rivers.

Map 1 illustrates the rivers in Manitoba and all of Canada that are currently in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System as of April 2006.
Map 1: Canadian Heritage Rivers System - The Rivers
1.4 Red River Nomination and Designation Process

For more than 30 years, the need to conserve and promote the significant heritage and recreational values of the Red River for public use, enjoyment and interpretation, has been recognized and addressed by various levels of government and stakeholders in the Red River Valley region of southern Manitoba.

In that time, a number of government initiatives and studies have been conducted to conserve and promote Red River values. Examples include, but are not limited to: The Canada-Manitoba Agreement for Recreation and Conservation (ARC) on the Red River Corridor (1978-1985); Parks Canada Rivers West Planning Forum (1995), Greenway on the Red Forum (2000).

The process leading to the nomination of the Red as a Heritage River began with first recognizing the Red’s values and potential for inclusion in the Canadian Heritage River System. The Canadian Heritage Rivers System – Systems Study of Rivers in Manitoba (1997), and the Canadian Heritage Rivers System – Red River Background Study (1998) initiated this process. Respectively, the studies recognized the Red’s potential for nomination to the System and that the River could add to or perhaps better represent certain heritage values compared to existing Canadian Heritage Rivers (CHR’s).

In 2003, in light of the previous study findings, Rivers West, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism and Manitoba Conservation prepared the Red River, Manitoba – Prescreening Document for submission to the CHRS Board. The Board reviewed this document, acknowledged the nationally significant heritage values of the Red River, and encouraged the Province of Manitoba to proceed with the River’s nomination based on cultural values alone. The Board’s recommendation acknowledged the national significance of Red River cultural values and the Red’s inability to satisfy certain CHRS Integrity Guidelines for natural and recreational values.
Following the CHRB’s recommendations, Rivers West conducted public consultations from 2003-2005 to inform local governments, stakeholders and citizens of Red River values and potential for nomination to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS). The process yielded strong government and public support.

In 2005, Rivers West prepared A Nomination Document for the Red River in Manitoba for presentation to the province of Manitoba for submission to the CHRS. In August 2005, the Red River was nominated to the CHRS in recognition of its outstanding cultural heritage values only.

In working to have the Red officially designated a Canadian Heritage River, Rivers West and the province of Manitoba began the process of preparing this – The Red River Designation Document - in early 2006.

The process involved newsletter circulations to inform various local, provincial and federal government representatives, First Nations, citizens and stakeholders of the process. Workshops were conducted by Rivers West with representatives from the above groups to address and identify: “What are you doing to conserve and manage Red River heritage and recreational values?” and, “What else could you be doing to conserve and manage Red River heritage and recreational values as we move forward into the future?”

The purpose of this process and in preparing the designation document is to show the world that we really look after our river.

Process participants have helped define current approaches, legislation, policy and management activities and practices that “We” all – including Rivers West, governments, First Nations, stakeholders and citizens – employ or undertake in working to protect, conserve, and promote Red River Values.

Participants have also identified additional required approaches, practices and activities that “We” need to
consider in working to conserve and promote Red River heritage and recreational values as we move forward into the future.

Overall, support for the River’s designation and for conserving Red River values is extremely positive. The information and support obtained during the public process has been instrumental in defining a Management Approach for the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River.

### 1.5 Purpose of the Designation Document

This document is intended to present a Rivers West led Management Approach for the Red as a Canadian Heritage River.

The Management Approach will outline the following:

- Rivers West’s mandate and current Management Goals and Objectives, consistent with CHRS Goals and Objectives, for managing the Red as a Canadian Heritage River.

- Management actions, strategies, legislation, policy and practices - to be applied or undertaken by Rivers West and Red River Management Partners to ensure that the River’s cultural heritage values – as well as natural heritage and recreational values - are conserved and managed consistent with CHRS objectives.

- A Red River Management Area to be included in the CHRS.

- To clearly demonstrate the commitment of Rivers West in taking the lead role as facilitator and advocate in implementing the Management Approach with Red River Management Partners to conserve, interpret and promote the river’s heritage values for which it was nominated.
1.6 Existing Use, Activities and Rights

For centuries, various peoples and cultures have all relied on the river as a mode of passage, a source of water and food and it’s adjacent forested environments as shelter and refuge from the open plains of Canada’s western prairie. Today, the Red River naturally forms the spine to the most densely populated region of Manitoba, *The Red River Valley*.

Approximately 750,000 people inhabit the region in both concentrated and sparsely defined settlement areas reflecting a varied pattern of existing land use and developments. River users, on the water or along the river’s edge, can experience agricultural landscapes defined by the sectional survey or remnant river-lots properties, rural residences, river oriented settlements and communities, scattered shoreline residences, dense urban neighbourhoods and shoreline developments, river crossings including bridges and hydro transmission lines and adjacent natural riparian, river-bottom forests and marsh lands.

Lands adjacent to the Red, throughout the corridor, are largely comprised of privately owned properties, for residential, agricultural, commercial, utility and industrial use. Multiple government jurisdictions overlap within the corridor and comprise lands owned and/or controlled by: ten local rural municipalities – Montcalm, Franklin, Morris, DeSalaberry, MacDonald, Ritchot, West St. Paul, East St. Paul, St. Andrews and St. Clements; four incorporated communities – including the cities of Winnipeg and Selkirk and the Towns of Morris and Emerson. The communities of St. Jean Baptiste, Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe and Lockport are also located adjacent to the river. The province of Manitoba and government of Canada combine to respectively oversee and manage 5 Provincial Conservation Districts and public access lands including 4 Provincial Parks and 28 National Historic Sites of Canada.

The Red River Valley region is the birthplace and homeland to the Manitoba Métis Federation, the political representative of the Manitoba Métis. Many Manitoba Métis reside in the region and continue to
rely on the Red River and its environments in pursuit of traditional rights and activities including hunting, fishing and trapping.

The traditional territories of the Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation, Peguis First Nation and Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation include all or parts of the Red River corridor. Peguis and Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation Reserve lands are located adjacent to the Red. Members from all communities continue to exercise aboriginal and Treaty rights along the River, including hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering native plants and berries for various uses. A number of First Nation spiritual or ceremonial sites are found along the River corridor.

Along the entire stretch of River, the Red’s waters support neighbouring settlements and communities. The River continues to provide a supply of domestic water, once treated, for thousands of residents outside of Winnipeg in southern Manitoba. The River is also an irrigation source and water supply for adjacent municipal, agricultural and commercial users throughout the region. The Red’s water quality is a concern for many citizens in the region, resulting from various human and natural nutrient and phosphorous loads from within the Red River basin and larger Red River watershed, affecting the River’s natural integrity. Adjacent residences and communities in the corridor continue to flow both raw and treated sewage into the river. Land use and developments in the corridor and throughout the Red River watershed continue to encroach on natural riparian environments, potentially impacting the integrity of the River’s adjacent riparian landscapes and its waters.

Through history, the Red River Valley region has experienced frequent severe seasonal flood events, impacting settlements and communities throughout the corridor. Various examples of flood prevention infrastructure such as residence and community ring dykes and the city of Winnipeg Floodway are found along the River. Addressing flood risks and impacts to properties along the Red, and flood management and the development and/or maintenance of flood
prevention, is a continuous focus of citizens, various agencies and governments throughout the corridor.

The lower Red at Selkirk is utilized as a commercial and industrial corridor providing federal harbour facilities and access, egress to the lower parts of the river and Lake Winnipeg for commercial fishers, large commercial barges and freighters, Canada Coast Guard vessels and float planes.

Natural and developed environments along the Red River provide a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities, including boating, angling cultural heritage and natural heritage appreciation and water associated activities including shoreline trail use, camping and hunting. The River is a popular tourism destination and supports high levels of use by a great number of Manitobans and visitors to the province each year.

1.7 CHR Designation: Recognizing and Respecting Existing Land Use, Activities and Rights

Designating the Red and preparing a Management Approach for the River will – first and foremost - acknowledge, respect and accommodate all existing and future river use and adjacent land and resource use while ensuring that the cultural heritage values for which the river was nominated to the system are both conserved and celebrated.

The Management Approach will not impose new legislation or new regulations for use of the river and adjacent land areas.

The Management Approach will outline how existing legislation, policy, and practices can be used as “management tools” to conserve, preserve and promote Red River values.

It is important to realize that designating the Red River a Heritage River is really just that – giving the River a special title. That’s it. However, this title is most important in getting people to realize that the
River is indeed special and therefore needs to be conserved and protected with a greater “duty of care” exercised by all.

Therefore, all existing and future landowner rights, Métis rights, First Nation aboriginal and Treaty rights, leasehold rights, permits and rights-of-way are not to be affected by CHRS designation.

Obviously, in future, various land uses will continue along the river, and new ideas, demands and opportunities for river use, land use and development will also occur.

In light of this, all that is encouraged, or hoped for through Heritage Rivers designation is that the Red’s values are taken into account in these circumstances and considered to ensure they are conserved, preserved and promoted well into the future.
2.0 The Red River

2.1 Red River Values

Moving towards defining and implementing a Red River Management Approach will require an awareness and appreciation for conserving the River’s cultural heritage values for which it was nominated to the CHRS. The Management Approach must also consider the River’s natural heritage and recreational values.

The Red’s tremendous cultural heritage and historical importance in the Canadian context, its waters and natural features characteristic of a Canadian “prairie river” and its wide spectrum of recreational opportunities, contribute to provide river users with an experience and character that is uniquely Red River.

Map 2 illustrates Red River Cultural Heritage Values identified in nominating the River to the CHRS. Maps 3 & 4 illustrate the Red’s Natural Heritage and Recreational Values not included in the River’s nomination to the system.

The maps present the location and extent of Red River values in relation to CHRS frameworks for recognizing and describing heritage and recreational value themes for river assessment and designation.

Most importantly, the maps are intended as a reference tool for future conservation and management activities in working to identify and conserve the River’s values. More detailed assessments of the Red’s values may be found in the Canadian Heritage River System – Red River Background Study (1998) and the Canadian Heritage Rivers System – Nomination Document for the Red River in Manitoba (2005).
Natural Heritage Values

Hydrology & Phylogeny

- Hudson Bay Basin
- Seasonal Variation
- Water Content
- River Size
- Bedrock Formation
- Glacial Transport/Melting
- Inundations
- Shallow Gradient

River Morphology

- Stream Configuration
- Lake Systems
- Level Water
- Deltas/Levees/Oxbows
- Undercuts/Terraces

Biological Environments

- Middle/Lowland Zone of Riverine Systems
- Eutrophic Lakes
- Marshes/ Swamps
- Boreal Plains
- Prairies

Vegetation

- River-Bottom Forests: Cottonwood, Balsam, Manitoba Maple, Green Ash, American Elm
- Upland Forest: Bar Oak
- Rare Plant Species: Red Root
- White Sedges, Jack in the Pulpit, False Indigo

Fish

- Fish: Walleye, Sauger, Channel Catfish (51 species known in the river)
- Mammals: White Tailed Deer, Beavers, Raccoons, Muskrat
- Birds: Pelicans, Owls, Grebes
- Herptiles/Invertebrates: Frogs, Turtles, Garter Snakes, Salamanders
- Rare Animal Species

Designating the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River

1. Regionally Rare Species: Jack-in-the-Pulpit and Field Thistle
2. Lake Iroquois (Flood Plain) Site
3. Riverine Forest (Significant Plant Communities)
4. Significant Wetland Habitat
5. Michigan State-Derived Population
6. Sand Dune
7. Shoreline, Wetland
8. Forest systems (Middle/Lowland Ecosystems)
9. Michigan Heritage Agreement Forest
10. Water Quality
11. Rare Plant Communities, Great Lakes-Michigan
12. Rare Plant Communities, Illinois, Michigan
13. Rare Plant Communities, Illinois, Wisconsin
14. Rare Plant Communities, Illinois, Minnesota
15. Significant Fish Populations: Walleye, Sauger, and White Sides
16. Fish Population: Special Concern
17. Barred Owl
18. Dusky Swift
19. Kirtland's Warbler
20. Spruce Grouse
21. Great Lakes Biome
22. Sand Dune
23. Lake Superior
24. Lake Michigan
25. Lake Erie
26. Lake Huron
27. Lake Ontario

Map 3: Natural Heritage Values
Recreational Values

Designating the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River

1. Cartrish Point Boat Launch
2. Lake Louise
3. Trans Canada Trail - Crow Wing Trail
4. Forgotten Trail
5. Points West Trail
6. Ice Fishing Access
7. St. Jean Baptiste Park
8. Boat Launch and Fishing Access
9. St. Norbert Provincial Heritage Park
10. Forks Marina
11. Sphashe Dashi Water Taxi/Bus Docks
12. Basilica Dock
13. Whitter Park Dock
14. Alexander Dock
15. Fort Gibratla
16. Commercial Tour Boats
17. River Road Heritage Parkway
18. Selkirk Waterfront and Park
19. Breeze Point
20. Netley Marsh Public Shooting Grounds

Recreational Values

- Historic Sites
- Cultural Landscapes
- Sporting Events / Activities
- Cultural Events / Activities
- Wildlife
- Vegetation
- Visits / Scenic Quality
- Geological Features / Water Features
- Extended Canoe Tripping (Motorized and non)
- Day Paddling from Urban Centre
- Pleasure Boating
- Water Skiing
- Trail Use (e.g., hiking, walking, cycling)
- X-Country Skiing
- Skating (Urban Centre)
- Day Angling
- Weekend Angling
- Extended Angling Vacation
- Fly Fishing
- Ice Fishing
- Specific Species Walleye, Perch, Pike, Sturgeon
- Channel Catfish, Goldeye
2.2 Experiences and Character: A Red River Journey

In describing the experiences and character that define the Red River, one must journey through the mind’s eye along the entire 175 kilometre length of the River corridor in Manitoba, winding and twisting a northerly lazy course through a variety of landscapes and existing land uses.

The Red's present regional cultural character reflects the rich and storied heritage of significant people, places and events that have shaped the history of this region and represent major Canadian historical themes. Today, this rich cultural landscape heritage is expressed in the many settlements along the river including French, Métis, Mennonite, First Nation, German, Ukrainian and other cultural communities.

The Red's murky, nutrient rich waters supporting a diverse range of plant and animal species, it’s winding meander habit, adjacent river-bottom forests, levees and oxbow lakes and severe periodic flooding all characterize the natural features and values of a Canadian prairie river.

The River’s rich cultural and natural heritage values and characteristics combine to provide for a wide range of recreational experiences throughout the corridor in both urban, rural and natural settings.

The varied experiential character of the river is best defined within three distinct stretches: An upper stretch from Emerson to Winnipeg; an urban stretch, primarily the River’s highly developed course through the city of Winnipeg; and the River's lower stretch from Winnipeg, past the city of Selkirk, to the natural environments of Netley Marsh to Lake Winnipeg.

The upper stretch of river is rural in character comprised of adjacent agricultural landscapes, open farm fields dotted with farmsteads, remnant river-lot properties, rural residences, livestock pastures, few roadway bridge crossings and occasional market gardens. Along this stretch the river flows past the
communities of Emerson, St. Jean Baptiste, Morris, Ste. Agathe and St. Adolphe. At these locations the sense of human settlement is confined, maintaining the rural character of the stretch. Natural river features and formations including adjacent river-bottom forest communities, oxbow lakes and concentrations of wildlife are common. Certain forested sections of this stretch, visually undisturbed by adjacent land use, provide a river experience perhaps similar to that hundreds of years ago. Public river access points are limited and found at the various communities, providing recreational opportunities for shoreline angling and trail use, wildlife viewing, boating or canoeing. Water associated activities including waterfowl and big game (white-tailed deer) hunting also occur. The upper stretch of river, overall, sustains light to moderate levels of recreational use.

At Winnipeg the character of the river immediately reflects an urban stretch of river. Riverfront neighbourhoods and residences, adjacent roadways, high rise buildings, numerous public riverfront access points, park lands and recreational developments and river oriented infrastructure, including a number of roadway and railway bridges and hydro transmission line river crossings, all combine to provide a greater sense of population, density and human presence. Examples of cultural heritage are more evident directly adjacent to the river as experienced with St. Boniface Basilica and Riel House, The Forks and Grey Nuns’ Convent National Historic Sites of Canada. The River’s natural character is maintained by fairly continuous stands of river-bottom forest preserved throughout the city. The river is highly accessible and heavily utilized by citizens for recreation with numerous public river access points found throughout Winnipeg providing opportunities for shoreline angling and trail use, cultural heritage appreciation, boating and canoeing and winter use including river ice trails and the Festival du Voyageur.

The lower stretch of river transitions from the urban neighbourhoods of north Winnipeg, providing river users with an experience of rural residences interspersed within open agricultural fields, remnant
river-lots and more continuous river-bottom forests adjacent to the Red. Roadway bridges and hydro transmission line river crossings are present near the communities of Lockport and Selkirk on the corridor, Many cultural values and a sense of the Red’s heritage character is perhaps most evident and experienced directly along this stretch of river. Key heritage sites including Lower Fort Garry, St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, St. Andrew’s Rectory and St. Andrews Caméré Curtain Bridge Dam National Historic Sites of Canada and St. Peter’s Church, Captain Kennedy House and River Road and Lockport Provincial Heritage Parks all combine, with other values as well, to provide river users a rich, visible heritage character. At the city of Selkirk, a concentration of riverfront developments including, residences, multi story buildings, public docks and waterfront parklands, provides a brief urban experience before a return to adjacent landscapes of more sporadic rural residences interspersed along open agricultural fields and river-lots. Natural forest lands along the River become more continuous and uninterrupted below Selkirk as the River begins to depart from adjacent developed landscapes and enter the environments leading to Netley Marsh. At the Marsh, the River provides the most natural undeveloped landscape experience on the corridor, flowing past forested and reed lined shorelines and small lakes without any real presence of adjacent land use or developments. At this most natural point the River ends it’s journey, splitting into three channels before flowing into the Lake Winnipeg south basin and beyond.
2.3 CHRS Integrity Guidelines

The nomination of the Red River to the CHRS acknowledges the significance and the integrity of the River’s cultural heritage values in relation to CHRS Integrity Guidelines.

2.3.1 Cultural Integrity Guidelines

To ensure the Red’s Heritage Rivers status into the future, the following CHRS Cultural Integrity Guidelines must been maintained - with respect to conditions confirmed at the time of nomination - through an effective Management Approach:

Guideline: The nominated section is of sufficient size to include significant representations of all of the features, activities or other phenomena which give the river its outstanding cultural value;

The entire 175 kilometre stretch of the Red River in Manitoba, from Emerson at the international border north to Lake Winnipeg at Netley Marsh, is included in this nomination and captures all of the significant representations of the features, activities or other phenomena which give the Red its outstanding cultural value.

Guideline: The visual character of the nominated section enables uninterrupted appreciation of at least one of the periods of the river’s historical importance;

The many periods of historical importance demonstrated by the Red remain uninterrupted for purposes of appreciation and interpretation within the context of developed or undeveloped, urban or rural landscapes that comprise the River corridor.


**Guideline: The key artefacts and sites comprising the cultural values for which the river is nominated are unimpaired by impoundments and human land uses; and**

The many outstanding cultural heritage values along the corridor are unimpaired by impoundments and human land uses, with the majority protected as Provincial Park lands or as National Historic Sites of Canada.

**Guideline: The water quality of the nominated section does not detract from the visual character or the cultural experience provided by its cultural values;**

The River’s water quality does not detract from the visual character of the many, rich cultural experiences along the corridor.

2.3.2 Natural and Recreational Integrity Guidelines

The Red’s nomination to the CHRS did not include the River’s significant natural heritage and recreational values. In 2003, the Red River, Manitoba – Prescreening Document determined that the River was not able to satisfy CHRS Natural and Recreational Integrity Guidelines for nomination.

However, it is important that a Management Approach for the River also acknowledge the Rivers natural heritage and recreational values and that future management strategies or actions should address the following key guidelines:

**Natural Integrity Guidelines**

- Water quality, aesthetic values and ecosystem components should remain uncontaminated and intact, and not adversely affected by human land use or developments in the future.

**Recreational Integrity Guidelines**

- Waters must be suitable for contact recreation.
• The River must be capable of increased recreational use without impacts to cultural, natural or aesthetic values.
3.0 Managing the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River

Managing the Red as a Canadian Heritage River will require all citizens and stakeholders in the Red River region to recognize and appreciate the significant cultural heritage values – as well and natural heritage values and recreational values associated with the river - and the need to conserve and protect the integrity of those values well into the future.

In the context of existing land use and multiple jurisdictions and interests in the Red River corridor, an organized approach to cooperative planning, promotion, marketing, and public involvement is required in implementing a Red River Management Approach.

3.1 Rivers West: Taking the Lead in a Management Approach for the Red as Canadian Heritage River

Through it’s current and future mandate, Rivers West is intended to be the “Voice” for the Red River corridor. Rivers West is the only organization of its kind which focuses it’s efforts entirely on working to conserve and promote Red River Values for the entire length of River in Manitoba.

Therefore, Rivers West is both well suited and prepared to take the lead in working to define and implement a Management Approach for the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River.

Several government departments and agencies at local, provincial and federal levels currently oversee the waters, lands, cultural heritage resources and recreational infrastructure within the Red River corridor. Since the various departments or agencies may have responsibility for only a part of the region, the overall needs of the corridor may not be considered.
Rivers West works to facilitate and cooperate with all levels of government, First Nations, associations, agencies and jurisdictions that have mandates and management activities focused on the Red River - providing a forum to discuss common plans, issues and concerns regarding the Red River. In doing this, Rivers West strives to bring together people, ideas, and funding for sustainable development projects and marketing efforts that conserve and protect the River’s values.

Rivers West is governed by a Board of Directors that is comprised of government and non-government stakeholders, First Nations and citizens from throughout the Red River corridor. This approach is intended to be non-exclusive and works to ensure complete regional representation by interested and concerned parties throughout the corridor, in coming together towards a common goal – conserving and promoting the Red River.

3.2 Mission Statement: Managing the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River

Managing the Red as a Canadian Heritage River will require the continued efforts of Rivers West, working to facilitate and coordinate Red River conservation and management efforts with governments, First Nations, stakeholders and citizens in the Red River region.

Rivers West will lead by example in implementing the Management Approach, continuing to communicate with all stakeholders and partners the need to ensure that river and land management activities in the Red River corridor at least acknowledge and not negatively impact Red River Values.

Rivers West and all governments, stakeholders and citizens in the Red River corridor will need to work towards maintaining the River’s Cultural Heritage Values and Integrity, as recognized when first nominated to the system, ensuring the Red’s ongoing future status as a CHR. Natural Heritage and
Recreational Values and Integrity must also be considered.

In doing so, the following mission statement is to be adopted by Rivers West in taking the lead in implementing a Management Approach for the Red as a Canadian Heritage River:

Rivers West will, in working directly with the province of Manitoba, all regional levels of government, First Nations and all key stakeholders and citizens, to facilitate and encourage a cooperative and integrated management approach that will recognize, promote and sustain the cultural heritage values for which the Red River has been nominated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, as well as the River’s natural heritage and recreational values.
4.0 Management Approach

Table 1 presents *A Management Approach for the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River* (See Appendix A).

The *Management Approach* outlines what “We” all are currently doing to conserve and promote Red River Cultural Heritage Values, and Natural Heritage and Recreational Values. “We” includes Rivers West as well as governments, First Nations, stakeholders and citizens in the Red River region.

The *Management Approach* is structured according to the CHRS value sets for Cultural And Natural Heritage and Recreational Values. The roles of Rivers West and Red River Management Partners (hereafter, *Management Partners*), comprising the various jurisdictional responsibilities and respective authorities in the Red River corridor, is outlined. *Management Partners* identified in the Approach include governments, First Nations, stakeholders and citizens, with interests in the Red River or currently working with Rivers West and/or supporting the River’s Designation process. The listing of Management Partners is not intended to be exclusionary. Agencies, organizations, stakeholders or citizens not listed are also encouraged to conserve and/or promote Red River values.

Rivers West is to take the lead in implementing the *Management Approach* for the Red River. The *Approach* is framed around current Goals, Objectives and Management Actions and Strategies undertaken by Rivers West to fulfill it’s mandate for conserving and promoting Red River Values. In doing so, Rivers West will also continue to facilitate conservation and promotional initiatives, collaborating with *Management Partners* in working towards common goals for the Red River corridor.

Conservation and management “tools” – including actions, strategies, legislation, policies and practices - currently undertaken or utilized by Rivers West and
Management Partners are key to the Management Approach.

The Management Approach is intended to assist citizens, organizations and agencies in the Red River region with identifying the necessary “tools” that can be considered in light of future management, conservation and promotional activities relating to the River.

In doing so, the Management Approach does not propose any new legislation, policy or practices to be undertaken or enacted by Rivers West or identified Management Partners. However, legislation, policies and practices are dynamic and will change over time. Major statutes shown in the table apply to the Red River as of 2006.

The following presents Rivers West’s Goals and Objectives and Management Actions and Strategies as the basis for managing Red River Cultural Heritage Values and Natural Heritage and Recreational Values.

4.1 Cultural Heritage Values

The Management Approach for the Red River concentrates on cultural heritage values for which the River was nominated to the CHRS.

The following Goal, Objectives and Management Actions or Strategies are to be undertaken by Rivers West in its lead role in managing and conserving Red River cultural heritage values:

Goal: Preserve and develop additional benefits from the cultural/heritage resources including their history, traditional economic and recreational bases, and the rural quality of life.

Objectives:
• Preservation and enhancement of the cultural/heritage resources of the Red River.
• Knowledge of the corridor’s natural, historical, recreational and visual cultural/historic resources.
• Experiential cultural/heritage tours involving education and interpretation.

**Management Actions & Strategies:**
• Work with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism and Parks and Natural Areas Branch, local governments, First Nations, organizations and associations to preserve and promote existing and potential cultural heritage attractions.
• Enhance cultural and heritage interpretation and education (theming) through tour packages, interpretive signage and brochures.
• Create heritage experiential hands-on opportunities for preservation.
• Develop a heritage resource geographic information system (GIS) inventory including all significant cultural, natural, recreational values and visual resources for reference in heritage planning, interpretive program development and marketing, by Rivers West and all Management Partners.
• Undertake research that identifies opportunities for the hands-on historic site rehabilitation and long term learning opportunities for e.g. citizens, interest groups, students.

4.2  **Natural Heritage Values**

The following Goal, Objectives and Management Actions or Strategies are to be undertaken by Rivers West in working to conserve Red River natural heritage values:

**Goal:** *Through the use of greenways, enhance, protect, restore and promote the natural heritage of the Red River including its scenic landscapes, fish and wildlife, forest and plant resources and its quality of land, water and air.*

**Objectives:**
• A contiguous greenway along the entire length of the Red River, from Lake Traverse in northeastern South Dakota north to Lake Winnipeg.
• Decrease in riverbank erosion through stabilization efforts, improved riparian vegetation/habitat.
• Improvement of water quality of the Red River to achieve suitability for water contact recreation 50% during the open water season.
• Education of the general public regarding significant ecological features, biodiversity, and corridor environmental/conservation issues.
• Model for environmental stewardship for corridor environmental/conservation issues.

Management Actions & Strategies:
• Advocate and support initiatives that contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Red River; Continue to work with Manitoba Water Stewardship, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Committee, etc. to improve riparian health, contribute to watershed planning and management approach and advocate for riverbank stabilization and riparian restoration.
• Develop a contiguous greenway along the river that links with greenway initiatives from the American States of North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota, for the purposes of flood mitigation, protection of habitat, to absorb or prevent pollution, maintain open space and protect riverbank resources; Increase land devoted to greenway development through programs such as Conservation Agreements and the Manitoba Protected Places Program or Ecological Reserves Program by 10% per year.
• In cooperation with landowners, municipalities, Manitoba Conservation and conservation organizations (e.g. Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation) implement a “Greening the Red” campaign, promoting greenway riparian vegetation conservation or reestablishment.
• Work with Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth to develop educational programs regarding interpretation of natural areas, flooding and conservation.
• Develop specific properties (e.g. Shay property) as conservation pilot projects.
• Develop access and facilities to promote natural areas such as Netley Marsh as wildlife viewing areas.
• Undertake a biodiversity study and mapping inventory of significant ecological features (in cooperation with conservation agencies).
• Support initiatives to stabilize riverbanks, reduce erosion, clean-up of the riverbank and channel, and restore riparian habitat; extend “Operation Clean-Up” program to at least one new Municipality in the River corridor. In addition, seek one new sponsor for the program each year.

• Develop quarterly newsletter on riparian greenways and habitats and various programs available to assist landowners, when sufficient/relevant information is available to communicate.

4.3 Recreational Values

Similarly, the Red River was not nominated to the CHRS for its recreational values. The management approach also addresses the continued efforts by Rivers West to promote, develop and conserve recreational opportunities throughout the Red River corridor.

Rivers West has four separate Goals for recreational values that address recreational infrastructure, the development of tourism products and packages, marketing and promotion and education and capacity building. Recreational Goals and associated Objectives and Management Strategies and Actions are as follows:

Goal (1): Develop community infrastructure to support access to the river, in order to enhance recreational and economic development opportunities compatible with the natural and cultural values of the Red River.

Objectives:

• Making the Red River accessible to all.
• Infrastructure to support tourism and other activities.
• An integrated trail system throughout the Red River corridor.
• Knowledge and inventory of public access lands throughout the corridor.
Management Strategies & Actions:

- Host at least two meetings per year with stakeholders to coordinate the development of a planned greenway/trail along the Red River.
- Facilitate the creation of a multi-use trail system linking communities along the Red River and the development of land-based trails and linkages to other existing trail systems; complete one priority trail linkage each year.
- Increase the length of greenways/trails by two kilometres per year.
- Support the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association in promoting the Trans Canada Trail.
- Develop visionary, comprehensive community plans focusing on culture and heritage values, access, products, promotion, for communities or regions requiring such planning.
- Support the development of access points to key sites along the river; Build or restore at least two access points each year.
- Develop, maintain and publicize an inventory of public access areas/lands (including conditions and facilities) within the corridor.
- Support the development of access/launch facilities and supporting signage.
- Advocate for new business incentives, tax credits and for the re-structuring of the current tri-government funding arrangements.

Goal (2): Develop commercial tourism products and packages within the Red River valley that are compatible with and compliment the other goals identified for Rivers West.

Objectives:

- Quality tourism products and tour packages throughout the Red River corridor.
- Knowledge of tourism packages, experiences and product.
- International, national and provincial recognition of the commercial tourism product of the corridor.

Management Strategies & Actions:

- Complete and maintain an inventory of Red River tourism products.
• Support opportunities for general product development.
• Targeted product development including product linked to community infrastructure pilot projects (facilitated initially by Rivers West).
• Provide support to tourism-related entrepreneurs including business skills development, support for the development of an administrative and reservation system, and marketing assistance; Undertake research to measure and evaluate successes.
• Implement a quality standards program.
• Work with Management Partners to develop and promote tour programs that link Red River cultural/heritage attractions throughout the corridor.
• Host an annual workshop with tour operators, tourism suppliers, etc., to develop tour packages on the Red River corridor; facilitate collaboration among package tour providers and Travel Manitoba.
• Develop new tour products – winter season, flood protection infrastructure, river-bottom forest, or two-nation vacation (collaborate with U.S. tour operators/providers) products.
• Develop packages which lend themselves to be marketed to sports events and conventions as the need arises.
• Advocate for an efficient and effective approvals process for private tourism development.

Goal (3): Market and promote the Red River valley as a tourism destination.

Objectives:
• International, national and provincial recognition of the Red River and its resources.
• Provide timely, accurate and current information on the resources and attractions of the Red River Valley through a variety of media.
• World-class festivals and events which celebrate the river, its resources and heritage.
• Well signed and identified attractions.

Management Strategies & Actions:
• Develop a marketing plan for the Red River Valley region in Manitoba.
• Develop an annual communications plan for the Red River Valley. Develop themed marketing brochures highlighting and linking the attractions and resources of the valley under the brand "Routes on the Red".
• Develop and maintain an interactive Internet site.
• Encourage the development of trans-border/two nation vacation initiatives.
• Undertake research respecting issues relevant to the Red River corridor and tourism, e.g. catastrophes (flooding) - and how this impacts local perceptions, how this is best addressed, and how to turn catastrophes into opportunities.
• Support festivals, events and programming that support the Goals and Objectives of Rivers West in promoting the River.
• Support the development and promotion of agri-tourism, adventure travel and ecotourism opportunities throughout the corridor.
• Implement a signage program.
• Conduct an annual contest to increase public knowledge of Rivers West, "Routes on the Red" tourism information, and Red River region attractions and values.
• Host an annual familiarization tour focusing on the attractions of the Red River Valley.
• Develop informational material on Red River access points and recreational opportunities.
• Advocate with Manitoba Transportation and Government Services for improved tourism product way-finding signage in the region.

Goal (4):  Support tourism development and implementation through education and capacity building.

Objectives:
• Implement a school-based water quality testing program involving students in the Red River region.
• Support tourism development capacity building.

Management Strategies & Actions:
• Develop curriculum materials for Kindergarten to Senior 4 levels in collaboration with Manitoba
Education, Citizenship and Youth and other Partners.

- Develop partnerships with post-secondary institutions and educators.
- Develop capacity building through training and orientation programs for communities and tourism operators.
- Advocate with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism for the building of community/municipal capacity for cultural heritage awareness and interpretation.

4.4 Moving Forward: What Else Could We Be Doing To Conserve And Manage Red River Values?

The Management Approach for the Red River identifies what “We” are all currently doing to conserve and promote Red River values.

The public process to identify a Management Approach for the Red River also involved participants questioning, “What else could “We” be doing to conserve and manage Red River Values as we move forward into the future?”. As a result, a number of potential actions or activities were identified by participants for consideration by Rivers West and Management Partners in moving forward with a Red River Management Approach.

The following outlines potential actions or strategies in relation Cultural and Natural Heritage and Recreational Values

Cultural Heritage Values:

- Identify necessary maintenance programs for priority cultural heritage sites requiring upgrades to access infrastructure and facilities to ensure sites remain accessible and attractive for public use and interpretation.
- Work with First Nation communities to recognize, conserve and/or interpret known First Nation cultural heritage sites and traditional knowledge including
First Nation ways of knowing, respecting and using the Red's waters and adjacent lands and forests.
• Encourage cultural heritage conservation measures to be considered and incorporated in bylaws and/or development plans enforced by various jurisdictions – where not already considered or enforced - in the Red River corridor.
• Continually communicate to all citizens in the Red River region the need for conserving Red River values; *How we conduct ourselves may impact or benefit Red River values.*
• Encourage a greater appreciation of the Red River as a focus for art and artistic expression.

**Natural Heritage Values:**
• Inventory and identify priority shoreline areas for river bank stabilization; identify jurisdictional responsibilities/partnerships for conducting stabilization efforts.
• Continue to work with jurisdictions throughout the Red River watershed – including those within the United States - to address regional water management and quality issues.
• Continually work to improve inter-department (communication and planning by governments with responsibility and jurisdiction over the River.
• Inventory and assess 1997 “Flood of the Century” flood lands for candidate protected areas in recognition of flood history, conservation and interpretation.
• Encourage the province of Manitoba to develop Riparian Buffer-Tax Credit (25' / 7.6 metre buffer) to encourage private land owners to consider greenway conservation along the River.
• Develop cooperation between land owners and municipal and provincial governments
• Establish a provincial “Lands Set-Aside” program to acquire small land parcels along the River for greenway purposes.

**Recreational Values:**
• Develop and distribute various language translations of provincial angling regulations and fish species information new Canadians at key angling locations on the River, e.g. Lockport.
• Establish a Provincial Trails Act to encourage greenway/trail development along the River.
• Promote and focus additional river access initiatives, including public access points and/or boat launching facilities within Winnipeg and on the upper stretch of River, south of Winnipeg.

4.5 Red River Management Area

Map 5 illustrates the Red River Management Area. The Management Area identifies where Rivers West and Management Partners will concentrate management strategies, actions and practices to conserve Red River values as a Canadian Heritage River. All of the cultural heritage values included in the River’s nomination are found within the management area. The Area also captures the River’s key natural heritage and recreational values.

The Red River management area is a corridor, primarily defined by one of the River’s most significant cultural heritage values – the historic Red River river-lot settlement pattern.

The majority of the management area stretches out approximately 2 miles (3.2 kilometres) from each bank of the river, representing the extent of remnant river-lot boundaries found throughout the River corridor.

The Management Area also includes the City of Winnipeg, the City of Winnipeg Floodway and natural landscapes of Netley Marsh included within the provincial boundaries of the Netley Marsh Public Shooting Grounds.

4.6 Monitoring and Reporting

Rivers West, with the support of the province of Manitoba and Red River Management Partners, will work to annually monitor and report to the CHRS any significant impacts to the integrity of Red River cultural heritage values. The reporting will also address the degree to which management strategies
and actions are undertaken and/or achieved by Rivers West.

Every ten years following the Red’s designation to the CHRS, Rivers West, also with the support of the province of Manitoba and Red River Management Partners, will prepare a monitoring report describing the status of cultural heritage values for which the river was nominated to the system.

The monitoring report will assess and describe the condition of cultural heritage values, the degree to which the Management Approach has been implemented by Rivers West and whether the integrity of Red River values has been maintained to ensure continued designation as a Canadian Heritage River. If necessary, Rivers West may also conduct a review and update of the Management Approach in conjunction with preparing a 10 year monitoring report.
References


Rivers West - Red River Corridor Association Inc./L'Association du Corridor Rivière Rouge (Rivers West) & Manitoba Conservation (January, 2006) *Designating the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River.*


Rivers West - Red River Corridor Association Inc./L'Association du Corridor Rivière Rouge (Rivers West) & Manitoba Conservation (July, 2005) *Canadian Heritage Rivers System - Nomination Document for the Red River in Manitoba*
Appendix A:

TABLE 1: A Management Approach for the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River
A Management Approach for the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River

### Cultural Heritage Values

#### Rivers West

**Goal:**
Preserve and develop additional benefits from the cultural/heritage resources including their history, traditional economic and recreational bases, and the rural quality of life.

**Objectives:**
- Preservation and enhancement of the cultural/heritage resources of the Red River.
- Designation of the Red River as a Canadian Heritage River
- Knowledge of the corridor's natural, historical, recreational and visual cultural/historic resources.
- Experiential cultural/heritage tours involving education and interpretation.

#### Management Strategies & Actions

- Work with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism and Parks and Natural Areas Branch, local organizations and associations to preserve and promote cultural/heritage attractions and landscape.
- Enhance cultural and heritage interpretation and education (theming) through tour packages, interpretive signage and brochures.
- Create heritage experiential hands-on opportunities for preservation.
- Develop a heritage resource inventory including all significant natural, historical, recreational and visual resources for reference in heritage planning, interpretive program development and marketing.
- Undertake research that identifies opportunities for the hands-on historic site rehabilitation and long term learning opportunities.

### Collaboration, Facilitation & Advocacy

**Province of Manitoba (MB)**  

**Government of Canada**  
Historic Sites and Monuments Act; Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies

**First Nations: Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Peguis First Nation & Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation**  
Partnership and Cooperating Activities with Other Governments and Programs, Band Council Resolutions. Practices: Traditional land use activities - hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering in the Red River corridor

**Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF)**  
Métis Harvesting Initiative, Interim Métis Laws of the Harvest, Establishment of a National Métis Heritage Centre

**City of Winnipeg**  
CW Zoning Bylaw - Historical Buildings Bylaw, Development Regulations, Heritage Tax Credit Program, Best Management practices for construction along city waterways

RM Development Plan, Historic Building designation

**Towns/Communities Selkirk, Lockport, Morris, St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, Emerson, St. Jean Baptiste**  
Park and Site Historic Designation, Red River Floods Interpretive Centre, Community History Book, Agricultural Exhibitions and Events (Stampede)

**Trail Associations**  
Promoting, building and managing recreational trails Designation of CWT as Trans Canada Trail (TCT)

**Post Road Heritage Group**  
Management and Rehabilitation of Post Road and Fort Dufferin

**First Nation Heritage Groups**  
First Nation and river ceremonies, Pow-wow, Residential School Monument

**Mennonite Culture and Heritage**  
Mennonite Landing annual auction and celebration

**Museums and Historic / Heritage Associations**  
Preservation and interpretation of historical culture of Red River region: Prehistory, Fur trade, Settlement, Architecture, Anthropology, First Nation

**International Centre for Flood Architecture**  
Research, best practices and design for flood areas

**Legislation, Policies or Practices**  
MB Conservation - Department Level District Offices, River bank Management Committee, Regional Integrated Resource Management Team (IRMT) & Lands Branch, MB Intergovernmental Affairs, Water Stewardship, MB Transportation and Government Services Department Level District Offices

**Operational Level**  
### Natural Heritage Values

#### Rivers West

**Goal:** Through the use of greenways, enhance, protect, restore and promote the natural heritage of the Red River including its scenic landscapes, fish, and wildlife, forest and plant resources and its quality of land, water and air.

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<td>Government of Canada</td>
<td>Canadian Environment Assessment Act, Navigable Waters Protection Act, Canada Fisheries Act, Canada Water Act, Canada Wildlife Act, Canadian Environmental Protection Act, International River Improvements Act, Migratory Birds Convention Act, Species at Risk Act, Department of the Environment Act, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, Promoting best practices for Ag-water, healthy soils and biodiversity programs</td>
<td>Environment Canada-Department of Fisheries and Oceans District Office, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency- Prairie Region, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA)</td>
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<td>First Nations: Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Peguis First Nation &amp; Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation</td>
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<td>Band Councils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF)</td>
<td>Métis Harvesting Initiative, Interim Métis Laws of the Harvest</td>
<td>MMF Home Office Staff, Board of Directors - Regions &amp; Locals Representatives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Objectives:
- Improvement of water quality of the Red River and Lake Winnipeg to achieve suitability for water contact recreation 50% of the time.
- A contiguous greenway along the Red River, from Lake Traverse in the south to Lake Winnipeg in the north.
- Decrease in riverbank erosion, stabilized riverbanks, improved riparian vegetation/habitat.
- Education of the general public regarding significant ecological features, biodiversity, and corridor environmental/conservation issues.
- Model for environmental stewardship for corridor environmental/conservation issues.
## Management Strategies & Actions

- Advocate and support initiatives that contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Red River; Continue to work with Manitoba Water Stewardship, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Committee, etc. to improve riparian health, contribute to watershed planning and management approach and advocate for riverbank stabilization and riparian restoration.
- Develop a contiguous greenway along the river that links with greenway initiatives from the U.S. for the purposes of flood mitigation, protection of habitat, to absorb or prevent pollution, maintain open space and protect riverbank resources; Increase land devoted to greenway development through programs such as Conservation Agreements and the Manitoba Protected Places Program or Ecological Reserves Program by 10% per year.

In cooperation with landowners, municipalities, the Department of Conservation and conservation organizations (e.g. Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation) implement Greening the Red campaign.
- Work with the Department of Education and Youth to develop educational programs regarding interpretation of natural areas, flooding and conservation.
- Develop specific properties (e.g. Shay property) as pilot projects.
- Develop natural areas such as Netley Marsh as wildlife viewing areas.
- Undertake a biodiversity study/inventory of ecological features (in cooperation with conservation agencies).
- Support initiatives to stabilize riverbanks, reduce erosion, clean-up of the riverbank and channel, and restore riparian habitat; extend "Operation Clean-Up" program to at least one new Municipality in the River Corridor. In addition, seek one new sponsor for the program each year.
- Support initiatives that contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Red River.
- Develop quarterly newsletter on riparian greenways and habitats and various programs available to assist landowners, when sufficient/relevant information to communicate.

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<td>City of Winnipeg</td>
<td>Waterway By-law, Waterworks, Solid waste, Sewer, Lot Grading By-laws, Winnipeg Zoning By-Law, Construction Regulations, Zoning variances, Building Permits, Local District Permit, Best Management practices for construction along city waterways</td>
<td>Water and Waste, Planning, Property and Development; Parks and Natural Areas Branch; Zoning and Permits Branch; Public Works; Dept. of Community Services; Riverbank Management Committee</td>
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<td>Conservation Districts (CD)</td>
<td>Conservation Districts Act, The Conservation Agreements Act, Land and water stewardship programming through advocacy, education and promotion</td>
<td>Cook's Creek CD, La Salle Redboine CD, Pembina Valley CD, Seine-Rat River CD, East Interlake CD</td>
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<td>Non-governmental Organizations (NGO)</td>
<td>Advocacy and education of environmental issues</td>
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<td>Towns/Communities</td>
<td>Local zoning and building by-laws</td>
<td>Ste. Agathe; Selkirk; Lockport; St. Adolphe; Morris; St. Jean Baptiste; Emerson</td>
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<td>Manitoba Hydro</td>
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<td>Manitoba Hydro District offices</td>
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<td>International Joint Commission</td>
<td>Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909</td>
<td>International Red River Board</td>
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### Recreational Values

#### Rivers West

**Goal:**
1. Develop community infrastructure to support access to the river, in order to enhance recreational and economic development opportunities compatible with the natural and cultural values of the Red River.
2. Develop commercial tourism products and packages within the Red River valley that are compatible with and complement the other goals identified for Rivers West.
3. Market and promote the Red River valley as a tourism destination.
4. Support tourism development and implementation through education and capacity building.

#### Objectives:

1. Making the Red River accessible.
2. Quality tourism products and tour packages throughout the Red River corridor.
4. Timely, accurate and current information on the resources and attractions of the Red River valley provided through a variety of media.
5. World-class festivals and events which celebrate the river, its resources and heritage.
6. Well signed and identified attractions

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Recreational Values Continued

Rivers West

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<th>Management Partner</th>
<th>Legislation, Policies or Practices</th>
<th>Operational Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)</td>
<td>Advocacy and education of outdoor recreation and activities on the river. Organization's code of ethics</td>
<td>Manitoba Naturalist Society, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Snowman (Snowmobile Association of Manitoba), MB Recreational Trail Association (MRTA), Paddle Manitoba, Prairie Path Finders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival du Voyageur</td>
<td>Winter festival celebrating the 'Fur Era' in the Red River valley</td>
<td>Festival du Voyageur, Assiniboine Credit Union River Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red River North Tourism</td>
<td>Promoting and Programming events on and along the Red River</td>
<td>Selkirk, St. Andrews, St. Clements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Forks-North Portage Partnership</td>
<td>Management of Heritage Resources, Production of site interpretive materials, Develop and manage recreation/tourism facilities and programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management Strategies & Actions

(4)

- Implement a school-based water quality testing program for the Red River Valley
- Support tourism development capacity building.

- Increase the length of greenways/trails by two kilometers per year.
- Support the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association in promoting the Trans Canada Trail.
- Develop visionary, comprehensive community plans focusing on culture and heritage values, access, products, promotion, for communities or regions requiring such planning.
- Support the development of access points to key sites along the river; Build or restore at least two access points each year.
- Develop, maintain and publicize an inventory of public access areas/lands (including conditions) within the corridor.
- Support the development of and signage for access/launch facilities.
- Advocate for new business incentives, tax credits and for the re-structuring of the current tri-government funding arrangements.
Recreational Values Continued

Management Strategies & Actions Continued

(2)
- Complete and maintain inventory of tourism products.
- Support opportunities for general product development.
- Targeted product development including product linked to community infrastructure pilot projects (facilitated initially by Rivers West).
- Provide support to tourism-related entrepreneurs including business skills development, support for the development of an administrative and reservation system, and marketing assistance; Undertake research to measure and evaluate successes.
- Implement a quality standards program.
- Work with partners to develop and promote tour programs that link Red River cultural/heritage attractions.
- Host an annual workshop with tour operators, tourism suppliers, etc., to develop tour packages on the Red River corridor; facilitate collaboration among package tour providers and Travel Manitoba.

- Develop new tour products – winter season, flood protection infrastructure, river bottom forest, or two-nation vacation (collaborate with U.S. tour operators/providers) products.
- Develop packages which lend themselves to be marketed to sports events and conventions as the need arises.
- Advocate for an efficient and effective approvals process for private tourism development.

(3)
- Develop a marketing plan for the Red River Valley.
- Develop an annual communications plan for the Red River Valley. Develop themed marketing brochures highlighting and linking the attractions and resources of the valley under the brand "Routes on the Red".
- Develop and maintain an interactive Internet site.
- Encourage the development of trans-border/two nation vacation initiatives.
- Undertake research respecting issues relevant to the Red River corridor and tourism, i.e. catastrophes (flooding) - and how this impacts local perceptions, how this is best addressed, and how to turn catastrophes into opportunities.
- Support festivals/events/programming that support the goals and objectives of Rivers West and that promote the river.
- Support the development and promotion of agri-tourism, adventure travel and ecotourism opportunities throughout the corridor.
- Implement a signage program.
- Conduct annual contest to increase public knowledge of Rivers West, “Routes on the Red”, and Red River Valley attractions and values.
- Host an annual familiarization tour focusing on the attractions of the Red River Valley.
- Develop informational material on Red River access points and recreational opportunities.
- Advocate with Manitoba Transportation and Government Services for improved tourism product way-finding signage in the region.

(4)
- Develop curriculum materials for all relevant school grades in collaboration with Manitoba Education and other partners.
- Develop partnerships with post-secondary institutions and educators.
- Develop training and orientation programs for communities and the tourism business.
- Advocate with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and tourism for the building of community/municipal capacity for heritage awareness and interpretation.
Appendix B:

The Red River Canadian Heritage River Annual Report Checklist
The Red River - Canadian Heritage River Annual Report Checklist

1.0 Changes in Condition of Red River Cultural Heritage Values:

- Historic sites
- Prehistoric sites
- Archaeological sites
- Commemorative sites

2.0 Changes in Condition of Red River Natural Heritage Values & Recreational Heritage Values:

**Natural Heritage Values:**
- Water quality for recreation
- Water quality for aquatic life
- Water flows
- Flora
- Fauna
- Habitat alteration
- Physiographic features
- Other natural features

**Recreational Values:**
- Water-based activities
- Land-based activities

3.0 Implementation of Rivers West Management Actions & Strategies

3.1 Cultural Heritage Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism and Parks and Natural Areas Branch, local governments, First Nations, organizations and associations to preserve and promote existing and potential cultural heritage attractions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance cultural and heritage interpretation and education (theming) through tour packages, interpretive signage and brochures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create heritage experiential hands-on opportunities for preservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a heritage resource geographic information system (GIS) inventory including all significant cultural, natural, recreational values and visual resources for reference in heritage planning, interpretive program development and marketing, by Rivers West and all Management Partners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undertake research that identifies opportunities for the hands-on historic site rehabilitation and long term learning opportunities for e.g. citizens, interest groups, students.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Natural Heritage Values

- Advocate and support initiatives that contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Red River; Continue to work with Manitoba Water Stewardship, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Committee, etc. to improve riparian health, contribute to watershed planning and management approach and advocate for riverbank stabilization and riparian restoration.

- Develop a contiguous greenway along the river that links with greenway initiatives from the American States of North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota, for the purposes of flood mitigation, protection of habitat, to absorb or prevent pollution, maintain open space and protect riverbank resources; Increase land devoted to greenway development through programs such as Conservation Agreements and the Manitoba Protected Places Program or Ecological Reserves Program by 10% per year.

- In cooperation with landowners, municipalities, Manitoba Conservation and conservation organizations (e.g. Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation) implement a “Greening the Red” campaign, promoting greenway riparian vegetation conservation or reestablishment.

- Work with Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth to develop educational programs regarding interpretation of natural areas, flooding and conservation.

- Develop specific properties (e.g. Shay property) as conservation pilot projects.

- Develop access and facilities to promote natural areas such as Netley Marsh as wildlife viewing areas.

- Undertake a biodiversity study and mapping inventory of significant ecological features (in cooperation with conservation agencies).

- Support initiatives to stabilize riverbanks, reduce erosion, clean-up of the riverbank and channel, and restore riparian habitat; extend “Operation Clean-Up” program to at least one new Municipality in the River corridor. In addition, seek one new sponsor for the program each year.

- Develop quarterly newsletter on riparian greenways and habitats and various programs available to assist landowners, when sufficient/relevant information is available to communicate.
3.3 Recreational Values

Goal (1)

- Host at least two meetings per year with stakeholders to coordinate the development of a planned greenway/trail along the Red River.
- Facilitate the creation of a multi-use trail system linking communities along the Red River and the development of land-based trails and linkages to other existing trail systems; complete one priority trail linkage each year.
- Increase the length of greenways/trails by two kilometres per year.
- Support the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association in promoting the Trans Canada Trail.
- Develop visionary, comprehensive community plans focusing on culture and heritage values, access, products, promotion, for communities or regions requiring such planning.
- Support the development of access points to key sites along the river; Build or restore at least two access points each year.
- Develop, maintain and publicize an inventory of public access areas/lands (including conditions and facilities) within the corridor.
- Support the development of access/launch facilities and supporting signage.
- Advocate for new business incentives, tax credits and for the restructuring of the current tri-government funding arrangements.

Goal (2)

- Complete and maintain an inventory of Red River tourism products.
- Support opportunities for general product development.
- Targeted product development including product linked to community infrastructure pilot projects (facilitated initially by Rivers West).
- Provide support to tourism-related entrepreneurs including business skills development, support for the development of an administrative and reservation system, and marketing assistance; Undertake research to measure and evaluate successes.
- Implement a quality standards program.
- Work with Management Partners to develop and promote tour programs that link Red River cultural/heritage attractions throughout the corridor.
- Host an annual workshop with tour operators, tourism suppliers, etc., to develop tour packages on the Red River corridor; facilitate collaboration among package tour providers and Travel Manitoba.
- Develop new tour products – winter season, flood protection infrastructure, river-bottom forest, or two-nation vacation (collaborate with U.S. tour operators/providers) products.
- Develop packages which lend themselves to be marketed to sports events and conventions as the need arises.
- Advocate for an efficient and effective approvals process for private tourism development.
Goal (3)

- Develop a marketing plan for the Red River Valley region in Manitoba.
- Develop an annual communications plan for the Red River Valley. Develop themed marketing brochures highlighting and linking the attractions and resources of the valley under the brand "Routes on the Red".
- Develop and maintain an interactive Internet site.
- Encourage the development of trans-border/two nation vacation initiatives.
- Undertake research respecting issues relevant to the Red River corridor and tourism, e.g. catastrophes (flooding) - and how this impacts local perceptions, how this is best addressed, and how to turn catastrophes into opportunities.
- Support festivals, events and programming that support the Goals and Objectives of Rivers West in promoting the River.
- Support the development and promotion of agri-tourism, adventure travel and ecotourism opportunities throughout the corridor.
- Implement a signage program.
- Conduct an annual contest to increase public knowledge of Rivers West, "Routes on the Red" tourism information, and Red River region attractions and values.
- Host an annual familiarization tour focusing on the attractions of the Red River Valley.
- Develop informational material on Red River access points and recreational opportunities.
- Advocate with Manitoba Transportation and Government Services for improved tourism product way-finding signage in the region.

Goal (4)

- Develop curriculum materials for Kindergarten to Senior 4 levels in collaboration with Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth and other Partners.
- Develop partnerships with post-secondary institutions and educators.
- Develop capacity building through training and orientation programs for communities and tourism operators.
- Advocate with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism for the building of community/municipal capacity for cultural heritage awareness and interpretation.