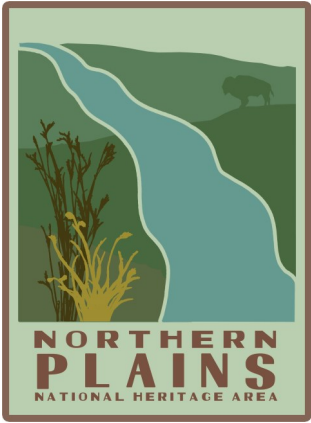


ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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Music on the Missouri Event Draws Crowd

Warm sunshine, cool water, and good tunes—a standard recipe for fun on a summer’s day. Those who attended the Music on the Missouri event at Keelboat Park this past July enjoyed all three. Hosted by the MVHA, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health (BBPH), and Dakota West Arts Council, the event was part concert, part recreation-fest, and part public input session. Working under two separate grants—a Riverfront Revitalization grant and BBPH’s Blue Zone program—the partners created an exciting opportunity for the public to become active participants in envisioning a new and improved riverfront.

Katie Johnke, BBPH, described it as “a perfect example of placemaking. Placemaking creates quality public spaces that contribute to people’s health, happiness and well-being by building on a community’s assets, like the river.” “By promoting walking and biking to the event and offering an opportunity for social connections,” she said, “the event provided encouragement for healthy living.”

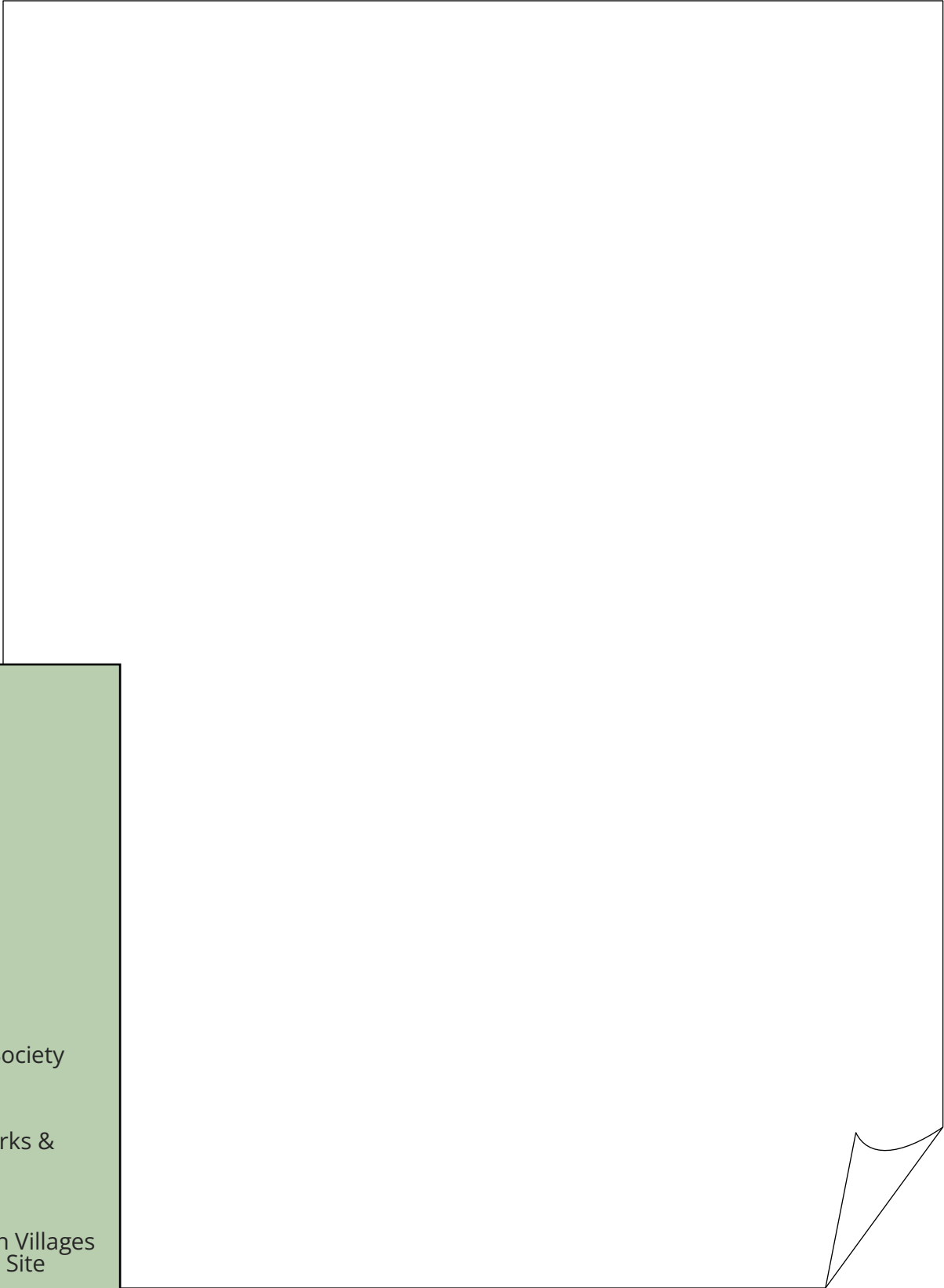
In case you missed it, Beulah-Bismarck based folk band, the MoonCats, played river-inspired songs; Northern Plains Dance choreographed a water-themed performance; the Laughing Sun Brewery and Famous Dave’s served food and beverages; and the City of Bismarck set

up a booth to promote the Together 2045 comprehensive plan.

The City of Bismarck was grateful for the opportunity to engage with residents and visitors of the area, according to Ben Erth, Community Development Director for the City. “Numerous individuals and families stopped by the tent to share their input and engage with City of Bismarck staff. Multiple people commented on how enjoyable the Music on the Missouri event was and expressed a desire that events like it would happen more often in the future.”

In all, over 200 gathered on the strip of grass between the Port of Bismarck boat ramp and bustling Pioneer Park trail. According to a survey by BBPH, an estimated 60% utilized park trails to get to the event. A handful even came by water, kayaking to the Port of Bismarck from upriver. Everyone who participated in the survey expressed an interest in seeing this type of event become a regular occurrence along the river, referring to it as a “atmospheric” and a “prime location.” With such positive feedback, partners involved in planning this event are already looking ahead to next summer for more riverfront programming and events.

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“To preserve, promote and develop the cultural, natural and scenic resources of the Northern Plains region of central North Dakota along the Missouri River.”



WINDOW RESTORATION A FITTING GIFT FOR BISMARCK

On September 3, members of the Bismarck Historical Society—recipients of a \$20,000 NPHF grant—gathered with State Historical Society representatives, congregants from Bismarck’s St. George’s Episcopal Memorial Church, City officials, and others eager to celebrate the completion of a years-long project that resulted in the restoration and installation of the Bread of Life Church’s original stained-glass windows.

The 1881 Bread of Life Church is one of the area’s oldest standing structures and has been an integral part of Camp Hancock State Historic Site since 1965, when the State Historical Society acquired it and moved it onto the Main Street property for preservation. Today, the church serves as an exhibit space and can be rented out for events and weddings. Sadly, most of the church’s stained-glass windows were removed in the 1960s and placed in storage. After years of neglect, Historic Sites Supervisor Johnathan Campbell initiated the process of restoring and re-installing the windows in time for Bismarck’s 150th Anniversary celebrations.

Recognizing the significance of this place to the community, the Bismarck Historical Society, who serves as a “friends” group to the State Historic Site, committed to

Exterior view of the Lea Parkhurst memorial window (left). Interior view of restored stained-glass windows, photo by Johnathan Campbell (top). Members of the Bismarck Historical Society present check to the State Historical Society for window restoration (bottom).

help fund the overall project. The NPHF grant provided a fundraising goal and ultimately, the group was able to match the 1:1 requirement with cash: \$5,000 from the City of Bismarck, a \$10,000 memorial gift from the Robert Ritterbush family, and \$5,500 in donations from members and local businesses.

“Nowhere else can you so readily sense the history of this town at its most humble beginnings,” remarked Mike LaLonde, vice president of Bismarck Historical Society at the start of the dedication ceremony. “The Bread of Life Church still manages to embody the spirit of early Bismarck, the hope of past generations that this community would grow and thrive—and so we have.”

The total project cost was \$107,040 and the specialized work was done by Gaytee-Palmer, a firm out of Minneapolis. Campbell says that while this project is a boon to the site, there is always more work to be done at Camp Hancock. Next up? Restoring the stone wall along the site’s south edge. Fortunately, the contributions the Bismarck Historical Society made toward window restoration will free up some of the State’s own funds for this and other ongoing projects.



Paint party participants line up to select a color for the paint-by-numbers of the Sverdrup Lodge host a paint party in Sons of Norway Park Scandinavian immigrant art. The word for "river" appears throughout

THE MISSOURI RIVER HERITAGE MURAL: Building Community Through Art

This summer, the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation and partners brought international artist Greta McLain of GoodSpace Murals to the Northern Plains National Heritage Area to initiate a community-led mural project. The mural will be placed on a pier supporting the Grant Marsh Bridge at the Port of Bismarck. The mural's theme centers on the heritage of the Missouri River and was born out of years-long discussion with key stakeholders, including the Dakota West Arts Council, Downtowners Association, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health, Bismarck Parks and Recreation, the North Dakota Consensus Council, and North Dakota Department of Transportation. The project kicked off in May, when McLain toured scenic and historic sites with NPHF staff to gain a sense of local history and culture. She then hosted a series of public

design conversations, soliciting thoughts, ideas, and reflections on the importance of the Missouri River to area residents past and present. "I heard that the Missouri River is what binds us all together, it represents our heritage, our history, our trauma, and what gives us hope and a vision of the future," McLain said. "This mural design seeks to invite the viewer into that history and into that future." The feedback she received has proven to be one of the many meaningful outcomes of this project, providing NPHF staff and partners examples of tangible and intangible aspects of our shared heritage that contribute to peoples' sense of place on the Missouri River in central North Dakota. Once McLain had a design that captured the public's



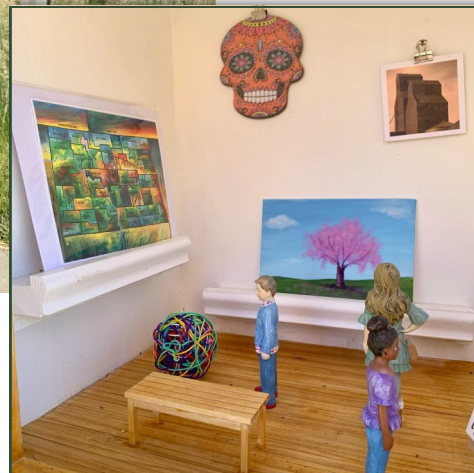
RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENTS

San Antonio has the world-renowned Paseo del Rio river walk. Boston has the Charles River Esplanade. Portland enjoys its Governor Tom McCall Waterfront Park and Boise has its Greenbelt. Here on the Missouri River, dog walkers and joggers, rollerblading teens and cyclists, kayakers and anglers take to the Bismarck-Mandan riverfront parks and trails. Counters in Sertoma Park alone recorded nearly 75,000 trail users in 2022.

In keeping with increased popularity of riverfront recreation, several new amenities appeared along the river's east bank this year. Both the MVHA and NPHF signed on as sponsors of the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District's new rent-a-bike program. The BisParks BCycle ride-share kicked off in August with four pilot locations: Sertoma Park, Pioneer Park, the BSC Aquatic and Wellness Center, and Peace Park near downtown. A touchscreen kiosk at each station allows the public to rent a bike, paying with a credit or debit card or by downloading the BCycle app. It costs \$5 for the first hour, and seven cents for each additional minute until the bike is returned to any station. In this inaugural season, bikes were available from 7am to 11pm, April through October. All rental fees will go toward sustaining the program, maintaining, and acquiring new equipment, and additional docking stations in the future.

Trail users noticed another new riverfront attraction this summer: the Little Free Gallery. The small, post-mounted, trailside gallery is outgrowth of the NPHF's efforts to provide cultural and historical interpretation in the vicinity of the Heritage River Landing. NPHF partnered with Bismarck Downtown Artists Cooperative to install it.

Modeled after free little libraries, the mini gallery aims to make art more accessible. It will allow anyone to take or leave a piece of artwork...or both! A peek inside reveals a miniature art exhibit, complete with gallery patron figurines. Small paintings, embroidery, and ceramic pieces have all passed through the exhibit space this season, each inspired by the Missouri River.

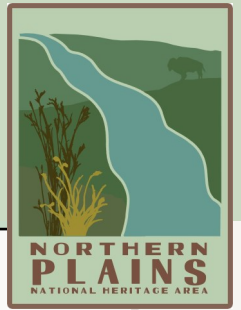


BCycle rental station located in Sertoma Park (top). BDAC's Free Little Gallery is located in front of the Heritage River Landing at the Port of Bismarck (bottom). Interior view of the Free Little Gallery (right).

NPNHA 2021

Economic Impact

Federal Heritage Partnership Program \$000,000
Non-federal cash and in-kind match \$000,000
TOTAL IMPACT \$0,000,000



The National Heritage Area Program

The NPNHA is one of 55 National Heritage Areas in the United States. NHAs are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. Through their resources, NHAs tell nationally important stories that celebrate our nation's diverse heritage. As lived-in landscapes, NHAs are a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development, and are among the most cost-effective programs in the National Park Service budget. Through public-private partnerships, NHAs leverage Federal Heritage Partnership Program funds with local matching dollars to support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects, fostering pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.



NORTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA