



Release

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For Immediate Release

PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND FLOODWAY RECREATION OPEN HOUSE

The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) is inviting the public to attend a public open house to view and comment on the draft Opportunities Concept Plan which details proposed landscaping and recreational development along the expanded Red River Floodway.

“The Opportunities Concept Plan will provide a blueprint to move forward with the longstanding vision of recreational development on the floodway,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “Although significant consultation has occurred with recreational users, the open houses are the public’s opportunity to review the plan and provide their comments before the plan is finalized.”

Two public open houses have been scheduled for:

- Thursday, February 19, 2009 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Delta Winnipeg, Ballroom B, 350 St. Mary
- Tuesday, February 24, 2009 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Transcona Canad Inns, 826 Regent Avenue West

Last June, MFA retained the landscape architect and planning firm of Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram, leading a consortium of local firms including McKay Finnigan and Associates, MMM Group, Prairie Habitats Inc., Fort Whyte Alive, and various tourism and economic development specialists, to develop an Opportunities Concept Plan for landscaping and recreational development along the expanded floodway. Since that time, the consultants have met with recreational users, non-governmental organizations, local municipalities, and other organizations, to examine potential recreational opportunities and recommended landscape treatments on the floodway. Based on these discussions and subsequent investigation, the consultant has developed a draft Opportunities Concept Plan.

Some of the main initiatives identified in the draft Opportunities Concept Plan include:

- A multi-use four season greenway trail along the floodway;
- A tree planting, re-vegetation and landscaping plan for the floodway that focuses on sustainability and naturalization;
- Staging areas to support recreational activity;
- Low level crossings across the floodway channel
- Hay lease opportunities for agricultural producers;
- Community gardens at designated locations along the floodway; and
- Signage and an interpretation program for the floodway.

The upcoming public open houses are the public's opportunity to view and comment on the draft concept plan before the plan is finalized.

For more information, please visit www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca or call the MFA at 945-4900 or toll free at 1-866-356-6355.

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