FISHER

AREA CHARACTER

Fisher is a community of 435 people on the Red Lake River and State Highway 2, almost half way between East Grand Forks and Crookston. The town grew up by Fisher’s Landing, the head of navigation for steamboats on the Red Lake River, and in 1875 the terminus of the Great Northern Railroad. The original town was a place of exchange. Goods from the Red River Valley were transferred from the Red River steamboats to the railroad to be shipped east, and goods from the east were loaded on steamboats for distribution in the Red River Valley and beyond. Flooding and erosion caused the town to eventually move from the site of the original landing to higher ground east of the river. No building remnants exist on the former site. Many floods have swept away the vestiges of the hotels and businesses that lined the banks of the Red Lake River. A memorial plaque marks Fisher’s original site. Today the community has a small commercial center and most residents commute to work in larger cities like Crookston and Grand Forks.

Today the City of Fisher is defined by a landscape of low lands, trees, two oxbow lakes and the Red Lake River. The river straightens at the County Road 15 bridge and bends again both upstream and downstream from the bridge.

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

OXBOW LAKE AT LOW WATER LEVEL: The two oxbow lakes fill with water in the spring and periodically during most summers. Trees line their banks.

VIEW TO TRAILHEAD PARKING SITE (A): The view from the County Road 15 Bridge in winter reveals the engineered straightened riverbank on the north side of the river, and the location of the trail access to the trailhead site. The summer view shows the river bank to the north of the oxbow lake.

VIEW TO OXBOW FISHING PIER SITE (B): The featured photograph is taken from the County Road 15 bridge looking to the potential location of the fishing pier on the oxbow lake.

FISHER MEMORIAL: The Fisher Memorial is a monument to the past location of the fisher landing where river boats historically docked at the Fisher Landing. Originally this bend in the river was known as the shirttail bend after the shirt that was strategically positioned on a stick in the river warning the approaching boats of the upcoming bend in the river.

MAIN STREET: The main street of Fisher is characterized by small residences and commercial establishments. The skyline of the city is defined by the water tower and grain elevators.

VIEW TO TRAILHEAD SITE: The view in this photograph is taken looking east to the potential location of the trailhead area from the existing carry-in. The natural topography of this site is ideal for the siting of a more formalized canoe carry-in and potential boat launch.
OXBOW LAKE AT LOW WATER LEVEL

VIEW TO TRAILHEAD PARKING SITE (A)

VIEW TO OXBOW FISHING PIER SITE (B)

FISHER MEMORIAL

MAIN STREET

VIEW TO TRAILHEAD SITE
FISHER
COMMUNITY RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

MAKING CONNECTIONS: The terminus of Main Street offers an opportunity to reconnect the core of the city to the river by creating a site for viewing across the river landscape from oxbow lakes to the river.

OXBOW LAKES: Owned by the county, the oxbow lakes, that were once the main stem of the Red Lake River, and the land that surrounds them offer an opportunity to commemorate Fisher’s history and provide a public amenity for residents and visitors.

RIVER ACCESS: The existing informal river access spots offer an opportunity to redesign a river access. The channelized banks at the bridgehead make locating an access point at the existing drop-in spot a challenge.

FISHER MEMORIAL: The Fisher Memorial and the social pull-off could be redesigned to create special places within the community. This existing memorial has a good description of the historical context of the fisher landing as well as the City of Fisher.

100 YR. FLOOD PLAIN: Construction is limited in the 100-year flood plain.
COMMUNITY RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

[Map showing various features such as existing carry-in path, riparian forest, county land, etc.]
FISHER COMMUNITY TRAIL OPTIONS
The community trail system connects the commercial center and the residential neighborhood to Oxbow Park, a new public park. The trails offer an experience unique to Fisher by providing multiple fishing locations, restoration opportunities, new access and environmental interpretive locations, combined with cultural and historical interpretation.
The design concept for the Oxbow Park is derived from the oxbow landscape and the rivers sedimentary processes at work in this location. The design provides trail and gathering space experiences at a variety of elevations throughout this section of the river bank.

This park features include:

- RLRC Trailhead Kiosk
- Hiking paths through the riparian forest
- Fisher Memorial Promentory
- Oxbow Bird Garden
- Fishing Pier and Carry-In
- Two Oxbow lakes
- A wildlife observation platform
- And access to the main stem of the River.
Oxbow Lake, Mud Flat, and River Terrace become new bird garden with restoration of the terrace area to establish food source and shelter for bird species.

Potential Trail Loop follows river to Boat Launch Site.

FISHER MEMORIAL Promontory & Interpretive Design

OXBOW PARK DESIGN

Upper Terrace Paved Trail

Lower Terrace Rustic Trail

Trees opened to provide views area replanted with native prairie species

Ordinary High Water Level

Top of River Terrace Bank

Mud Flat Area

Red Lake River Corridor Sign

New Crosswalk

N

OXBOW TRAIL Trailhead & River Access

Information Kiosk

Elevated Wildlife Observation Platform

Ordinary High Water Level

Parking for Canoe Use w/ Portage Access to

New Custom Design Street Lights

Elevated Metal Boardwalk

Trail Connection to Community

Sidewalk Trail connection to town and loop to Boat Launch Site

FISHING PIER Carry-In

OXBOW TRAIL Potential Trail Loop follows River downstream to municipal land

OXBOW TRAIL Potential Trail Loop follows River downstream to municipal land

Potential Trail Loop follows river to Boat Launch Lagoon Site

New Crosswalk

Unique Paving Detail

Oxbow Lake

Oxbow Lake

Elevated Metal Boardwalk

Garden Sculptures

Mark Water Level & Sedimentation
FISHER OXBOw PARK DESIGN DETAILS

FISHER TRAILHEAD / TRAILHEAD PARKING: The Fisher Trailhead provides parking for trail users and access to the hiking trail, canoe carry-in/fishing pier, the bird garden, and the restoration areas along the Oxbow Lakes. Street lighting from the town of Fisher is continued along County Road 15 to the trailhead.

TRAILHEAD ROAD SIGN & CROSSWALKS: The “eroded bank,” oxbow form of the roadside sign recalls the shape of the Oxbow Lakes. The paved pedestrian crosswalks slow traffic. The crosswalks have a stream-inspired pattern that reflects the Red Lake River and its processes of flooding, ebbing, and changing course.

TRAILHEAD KIOSK: Red Lake River design standards (steel rebar/pipe structures/steel decking) ensure the durability of the signs and minimize maintenance during flooding. Using the Red Lake River Corridor design vocabulary for kiosks, signs, railings, decks, etc. identifies Fisher with the corridor.

FISHING PIER & CANOE CARRY-IN: The fishing pier and canoe carry-in utilize the design vocabulary used at all access points, sign locations, and camping facilities on the Red Lake River Corridor. The pier is built at various elevations for use when the river changes water levels. The steel decking minimizes maintenance over time by allowing sediments to deposit through the deck back into the river. The pier is set into the bank to remain usable during high water and to minimize the distance it extends into the river channel.
**FISHER TRAILHEAD DESIGN DETAILS**

**FISHER TRAILHEAD**

- Native Plant Restoration of High Bank Areas
- 12" Gal. Steel Pipe
- Galvanized Steel Decking
- Canoe Tie-off Points
- Crosswalks w/ Stream Form Inlay
- Oxbow River Bank Sign w/ Proto-typical RLRC Rebar Structure
- Street Lights
- Sidewalk Trail
- Trailhead Information Kiosk
- Access to Fishing Pier and Canoe Carry-In

**TRAILHEAD KIOSK**

- Trail to Wildlife Observation Deck
- Kiosk Information Panels
- Native Prairie Grass and Flower Installation
- River inspired walkway paved with length-wise flagstone accentuating the River’s form

**FISHING PIER & CANOE CARRY-IN**

- Steel Wire Fence Detail
- Native Plant Restoration of High Bank Areas
- Oxbow River Bank Sign w/ Proto-typical RLRC Rebar Structure
FISHER
BIRD GARDEN DESIGN DETAILS

BIRD GARDEN WALKWAY BRIDGE: The walkway bridge uses the Red Lake River Corridor design vocabulary in a “river bend” form. The curved platform is constructed of galvanized steel grate decking to minimize maintenance after a flood event. The interpretive panel located along the fence line provides information on the changes in water level, sedimentation, sculptures, birds, and the ecology of the river.

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION PLATFORM: The observation platform is constructed around existing trees in order to provide enclosure for viewing birds and other wildlife in a non-intrusive manner. The deck’s form is inspired by the “River Bend,” the erosive process that creates oxbow lakes. The lake bank areas are restored with native plantings that provide food and shelter for a variety of bird species including migratory birds.

OXBOW SCULPTURE: The oxbow sculptures are designed to mark the change in water level as well as the eventual sedimentation of the Oxbow Lake bottoms. One sculpture is placed in the lake to mark water levels while the other is located in the mudflat area to show sedimentation over time. The RLRC design vocabulary of rebar is used. The spiraling form accentuates the vertical nature of rising and falling water levels and the accumulation of sediments. Large steel plates offer horizontal relief to these very vertical structures and mark water level changes.

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION PLATFORM SECTIONAL VIEW A1 - A2
BIRD GARDEN DESIGN DETAILS

BIRD GARDEN WALKWAY BRIDGE

Information Panel
Steel Deck
Restoration Bank Area
Mud Flats
Sculptures
Oxbow Trail

OXBOW SCULPTURE

El. 835
15' Height
4" 1.5" Rebar
Circular Steel Plate (1”x18”)

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION PLATFORM

A2 A1
Oxbow Trail
Remnant River Bank
Oxbow Lake
Bank Edge Restoration

Construction around existing trees, provides shelter for better wildlife viewing

Gal. Steel Decking
FISHER MEMORIAL DETAILS

The Fisher Memorial is on a promontory on both sides of County Road 15 overlooking the Oxbow Lakes. It is site where Fisher Landing was once located when the river ran through the lakebeds. The memorial steps down towards the old riverbed providing both views and seating. A crosswalk with a paving pattern that recalls the river connects the sections of the memorial on each side of the road. A ecological interpretive panel is on the memorial’s south side and an historical panel is on the north.

FISHER MEMORIAL LIGHTS AND STREETLIGHTS: The vocabulary established for Red Lake River Corridor elements is used for the streetlights that are also used at the Fisher Memorial. The vertical steel rods and the horizontal steel plates express the change in water levels that characterize the bounce of the river. The durability of the materials is appropriate for a frequently flooded environment.

STREETLIGHT PATTERN: Ten-foot tall streetlights provide ample lighting for nighttime use and safety. Lighted areas reinforce the community’s ownership of Oxbow Park. The pedestrian-scale lights create lighting patterns that maintain the community character of Fisher and prevent undesirable light pollution.

SECTION OF FISHER MEMORIAL
FISHER MEMORIAL DETAILS

PLAN OF FISHER MEMORIAL

- Oxbow Trail Access
- Promontory
- Historic Interpretive Panel
- Seating Stair: 1.5’ Riser/Tread Ratio
- Native Prairie Planting, Low-growing Grass/Flower Seed Mix w/ some Mesic Species
- Pedestrian Street Scale Lights (12’)
- Crosswalk
- Ecological Interpretive Panel

STREETLIGHT DETAILS

- Lamp Detail 20”x20”x18”
- High Pressure Sodium 200 Watt Lamp w/ White Plastic Cover
- Corrugated Sheet Metal
- 9”x1” Circular Steel Plate
- 1.5” Rebar Structure
- 2” Gal. Steel Pipe (Electric Housing)

Details:
- 10” Gal. Steel Pipe
- 8” Gal. Steel Pipe
- 18”
- 8”
- 6”
- 4”
- 20”
- 18”
- 15/8th” Drilled Hole @ 4” Radius
- 2 1/8th” Drilled Hole
- Joint Weld Edge
- 8” Gal. Steel Pipe
- 10” Gal. Steel Pipe
- Mounting Plate (1”)
- Steel Mounting Bolts (3/4”x24”)