



Bikes & Blues Festival: Grand River Bike Rides + Live Music Celebration!
Saturday, September 9

Bike rides start at Belwood Baseball Field and end by 2:30 pm at Skol House for live music.

9:00 am - Luther Marsh Lasso (All Surface, 90km)

A casual pace (~20-22 km/hr) exploration of the Grand River and Luther Marsh, supported by some local experts and enthusiasts passionate about the ecology, culture and heritage of the Grand. The ride will be guided by a volunteer team and will be supported by water and light snacks at volunteer-run aid stations and local shops that host us along the way. Riders should be experienced with basic maintenance and able to fix a flat tire. The route takes in gravel roads and is about 95% gravel. Hybrid, gravel or mountain bikes will be most comfortable.

11:30 am - Bridging the Grand Bike Ride (All surface, 50km)

A casual pace (~20-22 km/hr) exploration of the Grand River featuring stunning bridge crossings and hidden oases along Irvine Creek, supported by some local experts and enthusiasts passionate about the ecology, culture and heritage of the Grand. The ride will be guided by a volunteer team and will be supported by water and light snacks at a volunteer-run aid station along the way. Riders should be experienced with basic maintenance and able to fix a flat tire. The route takes in gravel roads and is about 95% gravel. Hybrid, gravel or mountain bikes will be most comfortable.

12:30 pm - Family Ride (15km, age: 9+)

An adventure for families and individuals to ride along the Grand and Belwood Lake in a supportive community environment. The ride will proceed at a casual pace (~18 km/hr) and follow the Cataract Trail, traveling to Shand Dam, where we take in the inspiring vista of the lake (looking upstream) and the river (looking downstream). We will be joined by local educators and enthusiasts who will share some facts about the local "water wonders," and we expect to have a small, friendly crew to cheer on the families as they arrive at the dam. A volunteer-run snack and aid station will be available, and the local guides will be available for minor maintenance (e.g. flat tires).

2:30 pm Music and festivities begin at the Skol House with a Children's costume bike parade (at 2:45pm) For children of all ages, dress up in a costume or come as you are and join us for a bike ride around the Skol House field to officially kick off our live music celebration. It is sure to be a lot of fun!