

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"River"

Policy Letter 702: Riverfront Park

BACKGROUND:

The Fargo Park District currently or potentially owns or controls approximately 70% of the riverfront property within the City limits. The river enhances the character of the community and also serves a functional role that is critical to the sustainment of Fargo. In addition to the benefits the river provides, it periodically roars up and must be handled with extreme care.

The Red River's aesthetic and recreational value to the City would be difficult to measure. Life and activity surround the river year around, and enhanced measures are needed to preserve that vitality. To ensure the preservation of the river a mechanism to maintain the riverbank is needed.

A possible approach to maintaining and preserving the Red River would be to classify the entire river corridor within the City limits as a regional park. Placing the river corridor under the care of the Fargo Park District is a needed step towards riverfront management. The complex issues related to the care of the river can be addressed effectively by the department that owns or controls over half of the river property.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should establish a systematic and comprehensive approach to acquiring riverfront property and easement agreements that allow specific uses. The City must protect the community's interest in the water quality, storm water management, floodway management, and recreation and scenic habitat as it relates to the Red River.

CONCLUSION:

The acquisition of riverfront property should be done through the joint effort of the Fargo Park District and the City of Fargo. Riverfront property out of the City limits is also important to the future use and preservation of this corridor. Easements on riverfront property that is subdivided but not developed should be obtained. The time to establish a riverfront plan is now. The City of Fargo should continue to move forward in the challenging task of managing the Red River of the North.