

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"River"

Policy Letter: 703: Riverfront

BACKGROUND:

Riverbank improvements along the Central Business District in Fargo have been minimal and the general feeling is that the riverfront is underutilized from a tourist standpoint. Over the past years studies have been done identifying the attributes of the Red River and also plans were developed highlighting opportunities for land and riverbank use. The River Keepers organization has developed as the local stewards of the river system and are a great asset to the City in guiding future riverfront activities.

More activity is needed in aggressively pursuing opportunities to acquire land along the riverfront that can link City parks and facilities. The City should purchase or acquire riverfront land when opportunities allow, to protect the long-term viability of this natural resource, which has environmental, economical, recreational, and educational significance to the City.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should encourage development projects within the Central Business District support and are compatible with riverfront plans and utilization strategies. Riverfront property should be protected from disruptive uses.

CONCLUSION:

The Red River of the North is too great of a resource in the community to leave it virtually unutilized. The river does force certain restrictions on its use or the use of the land adjacent to it due to its natural character, but these are only limitations. Nationwide, communities have established river walkways and focused recreational or educational activities along the river. Fargo's promotion of community activities must include the Central Business District riverfront opportunities as a key element, both as a link between activities and as a focal point of the character of the community.