



Lions Conservancy Park

Located at University Dr. & 44th Ave. S., Fargo on 16 acres of land adjacent to the confluence of the Red River and Rose Creek.

Vision Statement: The Lions Conservancy park is intended to demonstrate to the public through active and passive plantings, displays and signage, the natural environment of a riverine system. Incorporating some of the existing non-native plantings will provide a unique opportunity for area residents to compare and contrast native and non-native environments. The park will provide for both formal and informal educational opportunities and will serve as a mini-laboratory. The facility will be designed and managed to demonstrate and educate the public about plants, wildlife, and the unique environment surrounding the confluence of Rose Creek and the Red River.

Background: The City of Fargo deeded the park land to the Fargo Park District in the summer of 1999. The park land previously contained private homes that were removed after the 1997 flood. The Lions Conservancy Park is 16 acres adjacent to Rose Creek and the Red River. The Fargo Park District has a written agreement between the Park District, River Keepers, and the Fargo Lions Club. River Keepers is the “managing partner” with input from an advisory committee. The Fargo Lions Club is an integral component of the partnership providing staffing, advice and financial support. The park was dedicated on May 12, 2000.

Grants Received and Work Completed:

- North Dakota Game and Fish—Fall 2000. \$1,000 to Fargo Lions Club for OWLS site. Paid for entrance sign and part of outdoor learning classroom.
- North Dakota Community Forestry Council Community Transportation Enhancement

Grant Program—November 1999. \$8,086.85 to the Fargo Park District for planting trees in the nursery.

- Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation: Beautification Grant—January 2000. \$4,500 to River Keepers for NDSU Landscape Architecture students to design and build an outdoor learning classroom.
- Fargo Lions Club—2000 & 2001. Reserved for native grass seed on south side of road and as a match for grant to Red River Riparian Project for native plantings on the north side of the road.
- North Dakota Game and Fish: Missions in Woodland Habitat Program—Spring 2001. \$3,550 to Fargo Park District for “Fargo Greenway Project” which included tree plantings to restore existing riparian plantings lost due to weather and disease; and to establish riparian native plant demonstration sites to educate urban populous on North Dakota natural plant species. Fargo park District provided match.
- Red River Riparian Project: Spring 2002. \$7000 to River Keepers for Prairie Restorations to seed and maintain native grasses and wildflowers and for interpretive signage.

For more information:

River Keepers
325 7th St. S.
Fargo, ND 58103
701-235-2895
info@riverkeepers.org
www.riverkeepers.org

May 2005

Committee Members and why organizations are involved:

- Bob Backman, Christine Holland and Don Kilander, River Keepers—”Promoting a renewed vision for the Red River of the North.”
- Mike Benson and Katherine Tweed, Fargo Lions Club - Involved with community parks nationally.
- Dennis Colliton, NDSU Landscape Architecture Department— Provide practical real life experience for students to design plans.
- Doug Leier, North Dakota Game and Fish—Has Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites (OWLS) program.
- Dave Leker and John Wesolowski, Fargo Park District—Owns park land.
- Jay Mar, Lake Agassiz Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Works with projects to improve the quality of life and natural resources in a community.
- Wayne Monge, United Sportsmen—Interested in funding in outdoor educational site.
- Jim Olson, Fargo Moorhead Audubon Society—Interested in habitat for birds and education.
- Dean Thiel, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service—Trying to reach youth and families to implement sustainable living practices in their own homes.