

Christine Holland

From: "Christine Holland" <Christine@riverkeepers.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2005 3:47 PM
Subject: Riverfront brush clean up

Many of us spend Saturday morning exercising. River Keepers is offering you an opportunity to get your exercise and help out the river at the same time! We have been working with the Fargo Park District and the City of Fargo's Forestry Departments on a riverfront cleanup project in downtown Fargo. **As described in the article below, brush and branches have been cut in a section of the downtown riverfront. River Keepers obligation in this project is to carry and stack the material in preparation for pick up before they freeze to the ground.**

What: Riverfront brush clean up

Where: 4th Avenue North and the Red River adjacent to 2nd Street in Fargo.

When: Saturday, November 19, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

If you can help out, please RSVP by responding to this e-mail.

Thanks!

Cleanup targets problems

By [Dave Forster](#), The Forum

Published Wednesday, November 16, 2005

A crew of workers bundled up against the cold Tuesday for a job that police, environmentalists and city planners hope will help tackle a host of problems along Fargo's downtown riverfront.

The workers spent Monday and Tuesday clearing a tangle of underbrush and invasive tree growth near the railroad tracks south of Oak Grove Park. Supporters expect the project to benefit public safety, the river's health, pedestrians – even local walleye anglers.

"We want to clean up that area so that the public can begin to use it," said Bob Backman, executive director of River Keepers. "There is a huge effort under way to revitalize the riverfront."

The area has been popular for transient camping and drinking, thanks largely to the brush and tree cover it provided, said Officer Brad Baer. Workers sweep the area two or three times a year for trash, and they return with 30 or 40 bags of it, mostly beer cans or empty bottles of alcohol, Baer said.

Jeff Haberman, Parks and Recreation forester, said the brush clean-up should promote healthier tree growth along the river bank and make it more accessible to the public. His crew targeted invasive species such as buckthorn and box elder to make room for more ash, elm and willow trees.



Toppled tree

"It really hasn't had this type of work done to it," Haberman said.

The work was limited to a two-day window this week, but it'll likely resume on a piecemeal schedule later. The city has a riverfront development plan that calls for new rest areas and more maintained park space – projects that could build off this cleanup, said Bill Mahar, an assistant Fargo planner.

The city's plans include an addition next year to the bike path through Oak Grove, Mahar said. That section would complete a circular route through Fargo and Moorhead.

This week's riverfront cleanup should also please anglers who like to cast from the Red's banks in Fargo.

"That corner is one of the hottest walleye fishing spots in Fargo-Moorhead, but you can't easily access it because of the thistle and underbrush," Backman said.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Dave Forster at (701) 241-5538

Photo caption: Reid Jensrud of the Fargo Forestry Department uses a chainsaw to cut a toppled tree into manageable pieces Tuesday as city workers clean brush along the riverbank in the downtown area. Dave Wallis / The Forum

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River Keepers

325 7th St. S.

Fargo, ND 58103

701-235-2895

Christine@riverkeepers.org

www.riverkeepers.org

"Celebrating 15 years of serving Fargo-Moorhead and the river that flows through it, 1990 - 2005."