



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Flood Risk Management: Red River of the North at Grand Forks, North Dakota/East Grand Forks, Minnesota



Art festival with flood obelisk in the foreground near downtown Grand Forks, North Dakota. The top of the obelisk indicates the height of the 1997 flood.

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Location/Description

The cities of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and East Grand Forks, Minnesota, are located at the confluence of the Red River of the North and the Red Lake River, approximately 90 miles south of the Canadian border. Their combined population is nearly 60,000. The project consists of 30 miles of levees and 3 miles of floodwall set back from the river, forming three “rings” around both communities. Also included are 2 diversion channels, 23 pump stations, 24 miles of recreational trails, and 7 trailheads.

Status

Construction is complete to the 250-year level of protection (equivalent to the peak discharge experienced during the 1997 flood). On January 26, 2007, the Corps certified that the majority of the project was substantially complete and functional to a 100-year level of protection. The Point area was certified to the 100-year level in July 2007. Shortly after each certification, the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued Letters of Map Revision to the existing Flood Insurance Maps to



The spring 2011 flood, the third largest on record, exceeded the 2009 flood. This floodwall with closures is in front of the Blue Moose Restaurant in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

reflect the protection provided by the levees and floodwalls. Project closeout remains to be completed. Prior to closeout, the Corps has agreed to minor project repairs and improvements requested by the non-Federal sponsors. A levee system evaluation is being completed on the project.

In spring 2011 the cities experienced their third largest flood of record (stage of 49.87 feet), exceeding the 2009 flood (stage of 49.33 feet) by almost 1/2 foot. The flood of record remains the 1997 flood at a stage of 54.35 feet. The flood damages prevented by the project in 2011 were estimated at more than \$350 million.

Authority

The project was authorized in the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1999 (Public Law 105-277).

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs are shared between Federal and non-Federal (the two cities) interests. The non-Federal cost share varies from a minimum of 35 percent to a maximum of 50 percent depending on the cost of the real estate. Operation and maintenance costs are 100-percent non-Federal.

Total estimated project cost	\$394,000,000
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