



Simply Grand

Rebuild. Renewed. Reborn.

Grand Forks 10 years after the flood

On Friday, April 18, 1997, the Red River of the North broke through temporary dikes to inundate the Lincoln Drive neighborhood of Grand Forks. By the end of the next day, floodwaters had swallowed up both cities and downtown Grand Forks was on fire. The flood forced the evacuation of nearly 60,000 people—almost the entire population of the two cities—and damaged or destroyed homes, businesses, schools, and much of the community's infrastructure.

This year, 2007, marks the 10th anniversary of the flood. Today, Grand Forks is a city rebuilt, renewed and reborn—often described as something of a poster child for flood recovery.

- Hundreds of millions of dollars of construction projects have been completed, including new schools, city and county buildings, hotels, an events center, library and hockey arena.
- New restaurants, shops, offices, apartments and upscale condos now stand where there was once a swath of muddy river water.
- Homes and neighborhoods have been built or rebuilt.
- New businesses have created hundreds of new jobs and the population has not only rebounded, it is growing.
- Parks and recreation areas have sprung up along the riverfront along both sides of the river, and
- The communities have invested millions in dikes to protect against future flooding.

The lessons learned in Greater Grand Forks have been, and continue to be, applied to disaster response and recovery situations all over the country.