



TO: Mayor Shaun Sipma
Members of the City Council

FROM: Alderman Wolsky

DATE: May 27, 2020

SUBJECT: NDR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PLANNING DISCUSSION & ACTION

BACKGROUND:

The NDR Ecological Restoration Planning project currently has funding available in the amount of \$355,162.

From the City of Minot's NDR Phase II Application, Page 44

https://www.minotnd.org/DocumentCenter/View/1071/NDRC_Minot_Final_Public_Webpdf

Local opportunities: A series of flood storage and eco-restoration projects in Minot will establish an open space network to increase the city's resilience, reduce the scale and cost of other flood protection measures, and reconnect Minot to the Souris River. These open spaces will reduce flood levels during storm events; restore riparian habitat; engage residents in the management and stewardship of the river; and ensure the productive public use of waterfront land so it enhances the city's economy, social life, and overall resilience. One such area will restore 1.2 acres of forest and 10 acres of prairie to create habitat while contributing significantly to flood storage. It will also offer an educational space for residents, particularly children, to connect with the river and understand its ecological function, creating a living laboratory for resilience education.

From the City's NDR Action Plan, Pages 12-13

http://cdbg.minotnd.org/pdf/action-plan/ndr/NDR_Action_Plan_Consolidated.pdf

Activity Title: Ecological Restoration in Flood Storage Area

The Ecological Restoration Guidance Manual for Flood Storage will include guidance that covers activities from evaluation of the parcels to potential development of parcels for use as wildlife habitat areas, trail areas, habitat restoration areas, and areas where outdoor environmental education

activities may be suitable. The manual will combine flood storage and water management strategies as well as non-structural solutions like buyouts with the long-term flood protection system, to create a layered approach to flood risk reduction.

City of Minot Resolution 3566, Passed July 21, 2017 (Attached Document)

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE RESTORATION OF MINOT'S NATURAL MEANDERS OF THE MOUSE RIVER FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMUNITY BETTERMENT, HABITAT RESTORATION. AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Riverfront & Center

In January of 2015, the City of Minot finalized the Riverfront & Center plans with the assistance of a \$387,500 U.S. Department of Commerce EDA grant.

<https://www.minotnd.org/245/Riverfront-Center>

PROPOSED ACTION:

City Council discuss and consider action to advance ecological restoration planning, feasibility, and implementation phasing.