

MINOT FRONT & CENTER

Downtown & Neighborhood Plans

August 2014
Prepared for the City of Minot by





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CHAPTER 1

Introduction



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Introduction

The Minot River Front and Center Downtown and Neighborhood Plan grew from the need to plan for areas of Minot hardest hit by the 2011 floods and also from the City's 2012 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The study focuses on six neighborhoods through the middle of Minot on either side of the river, extending from the US 83 Bypass on the west to 27th Street SE on the east, plus the Downtown area. The study is organized with the six neighborhoods comprising a chapter, with sub-sections for each neighborhood, and the Downtown Plan as its own separate chapter.

Beginning in early 2013, the plans were developed through a series of neighborhood meetings spanning many months where issues were discussed and plans and ideas reviewed. The Downtown Plan had a separate advisory group and a slightly different schedule. The project was funded by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the United States Department of Commerce.

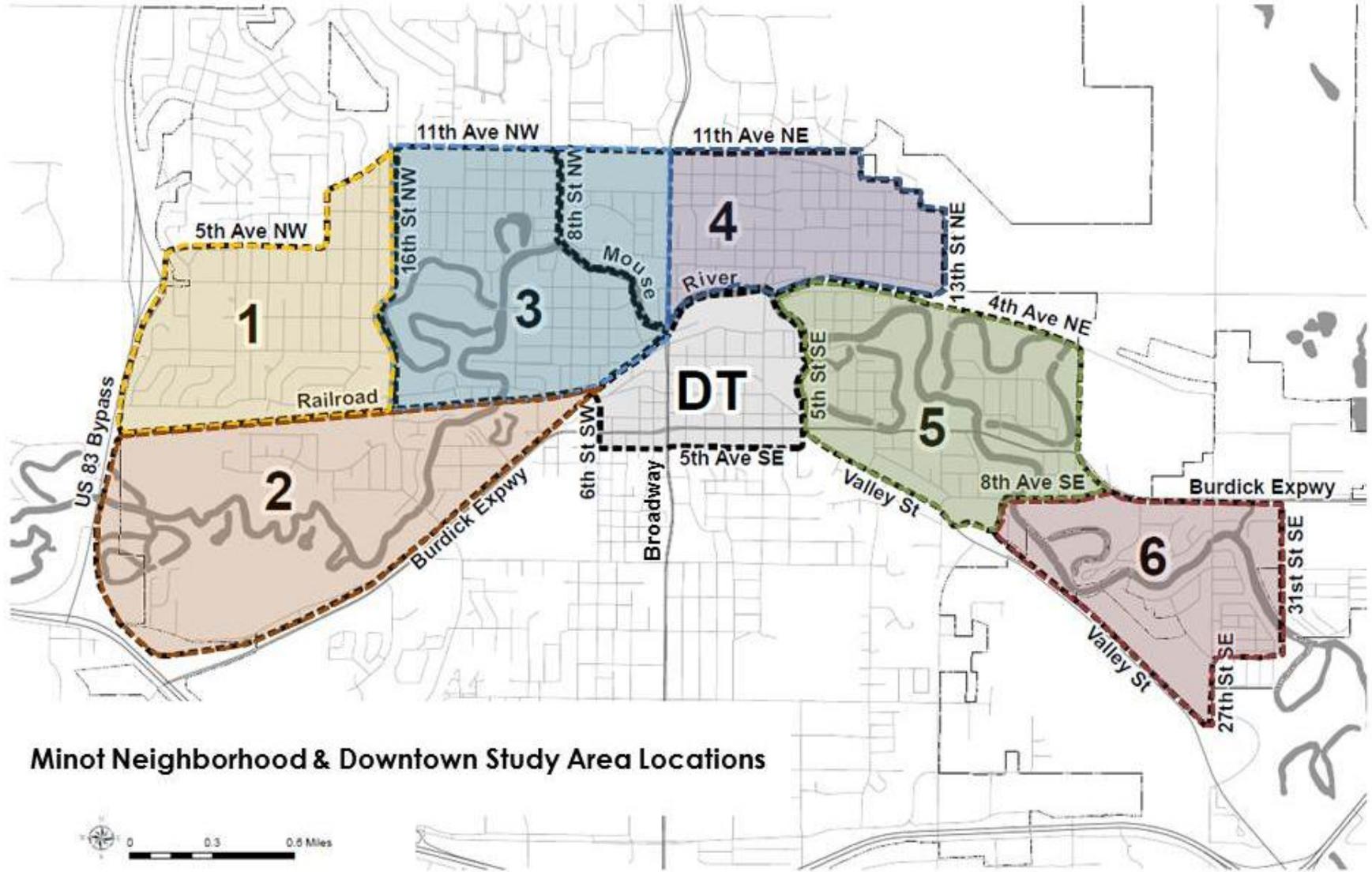
The goal of the project was to give neighborhood residents and business owners a voice in neighborhood renewal, to define a vision for the neighborhoods and help establish unified neighborhoods.

The project name, River Front and Center, was created to set this effort apart from the numerous other flood recovery activities.

A Downtown Steering Committee (DSC) was formed to assist in the downtown revitalization plan efforts. Consulting planners from Stantec and City staff worked with the DSC and representatives from the six neighborhoods to discuss key issues, set goals, and develop neighborhood-specific plans.

The boundaries of the six neighborhoods and Downtown are illustrated on the map on the following page.





Minot Neighborhood & Downtown Study Area Locations

Executive Summary

The Minot River Front and Center Downtown and Neighborhood Plans grew from the need to plan for areas of Minot devastated by the 2011 floods and also from the City's 2012 Comprehensive Plan Update. The Plan is organized in the following chapters:

Chapter 1 Introduction

Chapter 2 Relationship to Other Plans

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Chapter 4 Connectivity

Chapter 5 Downtown

Chapter 6 Neighborhood Planning Principles

Chapter 7 Neighborhood Plans

- 7.1 Neighborhood 1
- 7.2 Neighborhood 2
- 7.3 Neighborhood 3
- 7.4 Neighborhood 4
- 7.5 Neighborhood 5
- 7.6 Neighborhood 6

Chapter 8 Implementation



Chapter 1 is a brief introduction and orientation to the Plan.

Chapter 2 discusses the public involvement process for the Plans and the key ideas in the City's 2012 Comprehensive Plan Update. It also summarizes the work of FEMA and the Mouse Basin Recovery Strategy, Imagine Downtown Minot redevelopment projects, the preliminary Flood Protection Plan and Engineering Report, and the EPA Brownfield Area-Wide Planning and Assessment grant projects that were begun in 2014.

Chapter 3 provides a brief summary of the flood and its aftermath, including the extent of damage to various neighborhoods, businesses and other places in Minot.

Chapter 4 discusses the importance of connectivity in and among the neighborhoods and Downtown, describing the public spaces, future greenway (when the flood mitigation project is built), trails, and streetscape enhancements that will contribute to connectivity.



Chapter 5 is the Downtown Plan. The Plan emphasizes a series of key goals:

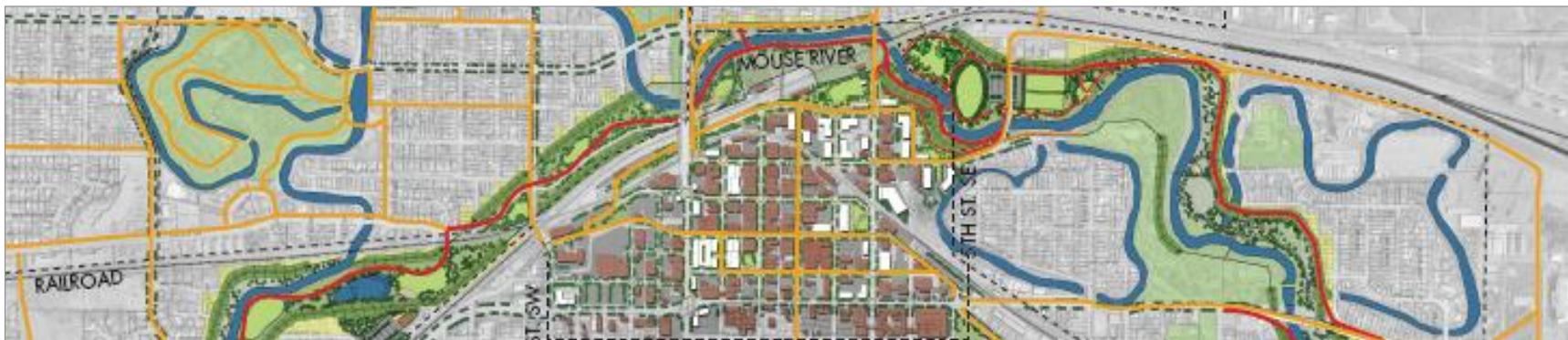
- Maintain Downtown Minot as the focal point of the region
- Encourage pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development projects
- Create a riverfront park system to become a community asset
- Improve Downtown parking
- Develop a multi-modal transportation network
- Promote sustainable design practices throughout the Downtown
- Make strategic public investments in the Downtown
- Provide clear definition of Downtown gateway corridors and edges

A Vision for Downtown was developed as part of the study:

“Downtown Minot is an economically vital, culturally diverse mixed-use district with a distinct historic character and well-designed public spaces that enrich the quality of life for residents, families, visitors, and the business community.”

The Downtown Plan offers specific plans for development and redevelopment, transportation, parking, parks and open space, trail connections, and streetscape concepts.

Chapter 6 discusses neighborhood planning principles, summarizing the ten common goals discussed by the neighborhoods, covering such issues as connectivity, safety, maintenance, park and open space, housing choice, and economic activity. There is also a section on neighborhood planning resources, offering ideas on neighborhood organization, code enforcement, housing programs, and community education.



Chapter 7 has individual sections for each of the six neighborhoods in the study. Each section has an overview of the neighborhood, maps of existing land use, preliminary flood mitigation plans, and transportation. Each section then discusses the issues and opportunities discussed by the specific neighborhood in the context of the goals for that neighborhood. The common goals in each of the Neighborhood Plans are:

1. Develop a multi-season trail system that is safe, enjoyable, and accessible to the public with connections to neighborhood destinations
2. Provide safe and functional streets that serve vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and transit
3. Manage on-street parking in the neighborhood
4. Maintain and improve public safety in neighborhoods
5. Maintain and improve the appearance and condition of property and buildings in all neighborhoods
6. Encourage investments and improvements that will maintain and enhance property values
7. Build and maintain existing infrastructure to City standards
8. Parks and community facilities within the neighborhoods are well maintained and an asset to the neighborhood
9. Maintain and expand the supply of safe, affordable, life-cycle housing
10. Maintain viable neighborhood commercial and employment centers

The plan for each neighborhood is then detailed in maps, graphics and written recommendations, 39 in all, which include implementation steps.



The Neighborhood 3 plan references the historic survey that was consulted as part of the study. The inventory looked at properties on several blocks in northwest Minot, bounded by 3rd and 4th Avenues NW between 5th and 9th Streets NW. The survey was conducted by Minneapolis consultants The 106 Group. Their conclusion is that none of the properties surveyed are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP). There are other properties nearby that are already on the NRHP which are not affected by the conclusions of this most recent study.



Chapter 8 tabulates all the implementation steps in the previous chapter into one numbered set in tables, with recommendations, implementation steps, responsibility, timing and priority for each.

