

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application

The purpose of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund is to provide funding to state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions, and nonprofit organizations to:

Directive A. Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

Directive B. Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

Directive C. Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

Directive D. Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Exemptions

Outdoor Heritage Fund grants may not be used to finance the following:

- A. Litigation;
- B. Lobbying activities;
- C. Any activity that would interfere, disrupt, or prevent activities associated with surface coal mining operations; sand, gravel, or scoria extraction activities; oil and gas operations; or other energy facility or infrastructure development;
- D. The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
- E. Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of defined activities that fulfill the purposes of Chapter 54-17.8 of the North Dakota Century Code.

Application Deadline

Applications for the first grant round cycle are due on **December 2, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. CST.** All information, including attachments, must be submitted by that date. See instructions below for submission information.

Instructions

It is our intent to have this form available on line. However, until that on-line form is available we are asking that you submit your application as a Word document. Please download this Word document (available on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund Program website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>) to your computer and provide the information as requested. You are not limited to the spacing provided except in those instances where there is a limit on the number of words. After completing the application, save it and attach it to an e-mail and send it to outdoorheritage@nd.gov .Then submit the Word document as noted in the following paragraph.

Attachments in support of your application may be sent by mail to North Dakota Industrial Commission, ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program, State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor, 600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405, Bismarck, ND 58505 or by e-mail to outdoorheritage@nd.gov . The application and all attachments must be received or postmarked by the application deadline. You will be sent a confirmation by e-mail of receipt of your application.

You may submit your application at any time prior to the application deadline. Early submission is appreciated and encouraged to allow adequate time to review your application and ensure that all required information has been included. Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding. **Any item noted with an * is required.**

Oral Presentation. Please note that you will be given an opportunity to make a ten-minute Oral Presentation at a meeting of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board tentatively scheduled for the week of January 13, 2014. These presentations are strongly encouraged.

Open Record. Please note that your application and any attachments will be open records as defined by law and will be posted on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund website.

Name of Organization * River Keepers

Federal Tax ID# * 45-0417429

Contact Person/Title * Christine Laney, Project Coordinator

Address * 1120 28th Avenue North, Suite B

City * Fargo

State * ND

Zip Code * 58102

E-mail Address * Christine@riverkeepers.org

Web Site Address (Optional) www.riverkeepers.org

Phone * 701.235.2895

Fax # (if available) 701.235.7394

List names of co-applicants if this is a joint proposal

MAJOR Directive: (select the Directive that best describes your grant request)*

Choose only one response

- Directive A.** Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
- Directive B.** Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- Directive C.** Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and
- Directive D.** Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Additional Directive: (select the directives that also apply to the grant application purpose)*

Choose all that apply

- Directive A.** Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
- Directive B.** Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- Directive C.** Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and
- Directive D.** Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Type of organization: (select the category that describes your organization)*

- State Agency
- Political Subdivision
- Tribal Entity
- Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation, as described in United States Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. § 501 (c))

Project Name* Restoring an Urban Riparian Forest

Abstract/Executive Summary. An Executive Summary of the project stating its objectives, expected results, duration, total project costs and participants.* (no more than 500 words)

According to the US Department of Agriculture riparian forests of sufficient width intercept sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other materials in surface runoff and reduce nutrients and other pollutants in shallow subsurface water flow. Woody vegetation in these forests provides food and cover for wildlife, helps lower water temperatures by shading the river, and slows out-of-bank flood flows. In addition, trees provide leaves and large woody debris important to aquatic organisms which serves as habitat and food for fish. The woody roots help to reduce the erosion of the riverbank.

In North Dakota, riparian forests contain a significant percentage of the trees in our riverfront communities.

In Fargo, the urban riparian forest has been negatively affected by recent flood events, invasive species and development of the riverfront for housing.

In the last 30 years there have been efforts to remove many structures on the riverfront that were prone to flood damage and required huge investments in public funds to protect. Those efforts were increased after the 1997 spring flood and especially after the 2009 spring flood. In Fargo in the last couple of years over 200 homes and additional related structures such as garages have been removed resulting in 265 acres of riparian land added to city ownership.

The addition of this land to public ownership offers the opportunity to restore much of the 25-miles of urban riparian forest and bring back lost benefits including economic and water quality.

River Keepers, a 23 year old Fargo 501(c)3 non-profit that works with the Red River is proposing the "Restoring an Urban Riparian Forest" project which will 1) improve the health and condition of the urban riparian forest interface through coordinated restoration activities conducted primarily by residents, college students, and youth groups 2) connect people with the riparian forest and all that it contains by involving volunteers and stakeholders 3) establish educational and forest demonstration sites including forest and related informational material 4) promote riparian forest best management practices (BMPs) to resource managers and decision makers.

Amount of Grant request \$ *\$153,100 over 3 years.

Total Project Costs \$*3,275,600

(Note that in-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds)

Amount of Matching Funds \$3,122,500.00

If applicable

Please indicate if the matching funds will be in-kind, indirect or cash.

Source(s) of Matching Funds

If applicable

River Keepers, Cass County Soil Conservation District, Southeast Cass Water Resource District, Fargo Park District, City of Fargo

Certifications *

I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.

I certify that if awarded grant funding none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions noted on Page 1 of this application.

Narrative

Organization Information – Briefly summarize your organization’s history, mission, current programs and activities. *

Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement. (no more than 300 words)

River Keepers is a 23 year old non-profit organization that works with the Red River of the North, primarily in the greater Fargo area. It started in response to a community wide planning effort that was focused on a variety issues related to the Red River. Since that time the organization has focused on advocating sustainable uses for the Red River. The organization is governed by a board of directors made up of sixteen volunteers that have a wide variety of interests, knowledge, and skills.

River Keepers philosophy is to work in collaboration with partners, including over 800 volunteers annually. With the support of these partners, River Keepers initiates and manages numerous projects and events, all of which add to the economic and wellbeing of the community. Our work includes many river and water related activities such as water education, water quality, river safety, riparian restoration, and river recreation. This is done so that the community understands the value and importance of the Red River and properly maintains and utilizes it.

Numerous awards and commendations attest to its effectiveness and efficiency. The quality of our programming has been recognized by many, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which has awarded us with two Friends of the EPA Awards. The international Red River Basin Commission has also recognized with an award on our ability to develop programs utilizing multiple partners.

We receive our funding from agencies, foundations, private donations and sponsorships. We believe in results not rhetoric so we are a hands-on organization which works hard to place results on the ground.

Purpose of Grant – Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program *

Identify project goals, strategies and benefits and your timetable for implementation. Include information about the need for the project and whether there is urgency for funding. Please indicate if this is a new project or if it is replacing funding that is no longer available to your organization. Identify any innovative features or processes of your project.

The Red River of the North is an international waterway bisecting ND and MN and draining into Canada. The Red River flows through several urban areas along its path, including Fargo, the most populous US community along the river. After years of mistreatment and numerous damaging floods we need to restore the health of the riparian forest and educate residents about the environmental and economic benefits of the riparian forest which will improve the health of the Red River of the North.

The original riparian forest has changed since European settlement of the Red River Basin. These changes have had negative effects including increased bank slumping, a decrease in water quality from increased polluted storm water runoff, a decrease in wildlife habitat, and a decrease in the general health of the forest. The riparian zone has been changed by numerous floods (spring and summer), invasive species, Dutch Elm disease, the removal of trees for construction of riverfront homes and the additional removal of trees for better “views” by homeowners.

Over 200 riverfront homes have been removed since the 2009 spring flood either because they were damaged by flood waters or to permanently remove them from harm’s way. The property, over 265 acres, is now in public ownership. This recent significant change in our riverfront now provides an opportunity to restore much of the riparian forest in the 25 mile reach of the Red that is touched by Fargo.

The restoration of the riparian forest on the Red River is a high priority project listed in the North Dakota Forest Action Plan. The North Dakota Forest Service consulted various partners to identify priority issues; priority landscape areas; strategies to address said issues; resources required to carry out strategies; and identify potential stakeholders. This proposed project, “Restoring an Urban Riparian Forest” will address six of the eight high priority issues identified in the North Dakota Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Forest Resource Strategy including: Invasive Tree Pests and Pathogens, Over Maturity and Limited Natural Regeneration, Lack of Species Diversity and Vulnerability to Damaging Agents, Strengthening Educational Outreach, Conversion from Historic Vegetation Type, Mitigation of Climate Changes and Abiotic Pressures. In addition, the initiative addresses National Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.

Much of the Red River is designated as impaired and is therefore a high priority watershed. Objectives identified in the state assessment related to the Red River include improving

forest health, improving water quality, wildlife habitat, and educating the public of the riparian forest's benefits.

This proposed project goals also align with the EPA's Urban Waters movement: 'Urban Water Strategic Frameworks' emphasis on restoring America's urban water and the President's Great Outdoors initiative.

The goals of "Restoring an Urban Riparian Forest" project are: 1) improve the health and condition of the urban riparian forest interface through coordinated restoration activities conducted primarily by residents, college students, and youth groups 2) connect people with the riparian forest and all that it contains by involving volunteers and stakeholders 3) establish educational and forest demonstration sites including forest and related informational material 4) promote riparian forest best management practices (BMPs) to resource managers and decision makers.

Short term impacts include: improved aesthetics providing a foundation for increased use; an increased cadre of residents that will appreciate the riverfront and its riparian forest; reduced noxious weeds and invasive species; improved forest health; and engagement of local volunteers, youth groups, and NGOs in riparian forest sustainability efforts.

Long term impacts include: an educated and involved association of residents and K-university students that will help to ensure the sustainability of a healthy forest; an increased use of the forest by the public; reduced storm water runoff; improved water quality; increased wildlife habitat for birds and small mammals; reduction in bank slumping.

Specific activities will include: 1) Establish a project advisory committee comprised of local and state tree professionals and local citizens. 2) Use of geospatial technology to delineate, digitize, and prioritize areas that will most benefit most from initial reforestation. The analysis will drive the development of a comprehensive restoration plan developed through a coordinated effort between the ND Forest Service, City of Fargo, Fargo Park District, and Cass County Soil Conservation District. The plan will include the establishment of demonstration sites. 3) Engage and train area residents, university students (particularly those in Natural Resources Management and related fields), and K-12 students in tree planting, tree health and tree maintenance. 4) Conduct tree plantings through well published events. 5) Develop and implement a tree maintenance program for the trees planted in this project. 6) Develop and install interpretive signs along access sites to the riparian forest. 7) Develop internet based information to include riparian forest and restoration area maps and forest information for the public. 8) Develop at least two demonstration sites that are easily accessible, have interpretive signage and demonstrate maintenance options, animal control and native tree species. 9) Conduct tours (including biking, walking and bus) of project sites for service clubs, elected leaders and others to showcase the project accomplishments. 10) Remove noxious weeds and invasive species in the riparian forest. 11) Submit at least one article for publication in a state wide or national publication about the project with lessons learned and project accomplishments.

River Keepers is well known for its collaborative efforts. This project will follow the same pattern of utilizing appropriate partners. In the "Restoring an Urban Riparian Forest" formal partners will include the ND Forest Service, the City of Fargo Forestry Department, The Fargo Park District Forestry Department and Cass County Soil Conservation District. Representatives from these organizations will serve on the advisory committee along with other community members. Informal partners will include NDSU's Natural Resource Management Club, neighborhood associations, service clubs, scout groups and schools, all of which will provide volunteers for planting and maintenance.

This will be a three year project. Year one will include project planning, hiring of staff, establishment of advisory committee, development of reforestation plan, training of volunteers, removal of noxious weeds and invasive species, creation of internet and printed materials and tree planting. Year two will include training of volunteers, removal of noxious weeds and invasive species, tree planting, maintenance activities and tours. Year three will include training of volunteers, removal of noxious weeds and invasive species, tree planting, maintenance activities, tours, and submission of article. Report creation and submission will occur throughout the project.

The Red River is now subject to spring and summer floods which has disrupted riparian tree planting and maintenance efforts in the past or has drowned out recently planted material. A multiyear project will maximize our opportunities for a successful project.

The reforestation will occur primarily on the large tracts of riparian land that have come into public ownership over the past few years. Entire neighborhoods as well as single homes have been purchased and removed as part of a large scale flood scale mitigation effort. While local agencies have recognized the need for reforestation due to these massive changes local budgets or personnel are not available to deal with this huge emerging issue. That's why the City of Fargo's Forestry Department and the Fargo Park District Forestry Department strongly support this proposal.

Management of Project – Provide a description of how the you will manage and oversee the project to ensure it is carried out on schedule and in a manner that best ensures its objectives will be met.*

Include a brief background and work experience for those managing the project.

River Keepers is well qualified to manage this project. The River Keepers Executive Director has 15 years' experience with the organization and the Project Coordinator has over 20 years. The organization has a successful track record of managing large projects from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the US State Department and others. It has financial systems in place to accurately and efficiently manage such projects. Overall project direction will be provided by the advisory committee which will contain experienced and qualified managers and tree experts. River Keepers has a successful track record of recruiting and managing community volunteers. Annually over 800 volunteers are involved in River Keepers' activities and events. The detailed project plan, developed after funding starts, will include detailed project timelines and milestones.

Evaluation – Describe your plan to document progress and results. *

How will you tell if the project is successful? Please be specific on the methods you will utilize to measure success. Note that regular reporting, final evaluation and expenditure reports will be required for every grant awarded.

The advisory committee will review the detailed project plan and milestones quarterly to access progress. A remedial plan will be developed to address any areas not on schedule. In addition forestry experts not on the advisory committee will be asked to annually review the project and make suggestions for improvement. These annual reviewers would be senior management from the ND State Forest Service or the ND Game and Fish Department. Their reviews would be included in reports to the Outdoor Heritage Fund as well as to the advisory committee. Annually, volunteers will be asked to rate their experience and make suggestions for improvement. City staff not on the advisory committee will also be asked to review progress and make suggestions. The ultimate evaluation will be if there is a vibrant riparian forest developed on new public lands in Fargo.

Financial Information

ATTACHMENT: Project Budget – Using the standard project budget format that is available on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>, please include a detailed total project budget that specifically outlines all the funds you are requesting.*

The project budget should identify all matching funds, funding sources and indicate whether the matching funds are in the form of cash or in-kind services. As noted on the standard project budget format, certain values have been identified for in-kind services. Please utilize these values in identifying your matching funds. **NOTE: No indirect costs will be funded.**

x I certify that a project budget will be sent to the Commission*

Sustainability – Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years. *

Include information on the sustainability of this project after all the funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund has been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.

All components of the project plan will focus on ensuring the plant materials survive and prosper. The choice of species, the planting methods, the ongoing monitoring and identification of issues and maintenance will be focused on ensuring sustainability. The detailed project plan will be developed in year one of the project.

The project partners, City of Fargo Forestry Department and Fargo Park District have a long history of ensuring that the trees under their care are healthy.

Partial Funding – Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested. *

The project at the funding level requested is designed for maximum effectiveness and efficiency. If less funding is available there will be less land reforested. Depending upon the amount of the reduction it may be necessary to eliminate portions of the project.

Scoring of Grants

All applications will be scored by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board after your ten-minute oral presentation. The ranking sheet(s) that will be used by the Board is available on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> .

Awarding of Grants

All decisions on requests will be reported to applicants no later than 30 days after Industrial Commission consideration. Applicants whose proposals have been approved will receive a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant. Please note the appropriate sample contract for your organization on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> that set forth the general provisions that will be included in any contract issued by the North Dakota Industrial Commission. Please indicate if you can meet all the provisions of the sample contract. If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be. *

Responsibility of Recipient

The recipient of any grant from the Industrial Commission must use the funds awarded for the specific purpose described in the grant application and in accordance with the contract. The recipient cannot use any of the funds for the purposes stated under Exemptions on the first page of this application.

If you have any questions about the application or have trouble submitting the application, please contact Karlene Fine at 701-328-3722 or kfine@nd.gov

Budget Standard Form

Please use the table below to provide a detailed total project budget that specifically outlines all the funds you are requesting and if there are any matching funds being utilized to fund this project. Please note if the matching funds are in the form of cash, indirect costs or in-kind services. The budget should identify all other committed funding sources and the amount of funding from each source. Match can come from any source (i.e. private sources, State and Federal funding, Tribal funding, etc.) Note match funding is not required but an application will be scored higher if match funding is provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Please feel free to add columns and rows as needed. Please include narrative to fully explain the proposed budget.

Note that NO INDIRECT COSTS will be funded from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Applicant's Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share
Labor	\$120,000	\$40,000	\$22,500	\$	\$26,000
Supplies	\$31,400	\$	\$1000	\$	\$12,000
Land Value	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$3,000,000
Administrative Cost	\$	\$	\$21,000	\$	\$
Mileage	\$1700	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Project Costs	\$153,100	\$40,000	\$44,500	\$0	\$3,038,000

This budget is for 3 years.

Labor – River Keepers salary and fringe is \$24/hr. Applicant's cash match is from Southeast Cass Water Resource District. Applicant's In-Kind share is volunteer labor at \$15/hour. Project Sponsor's Share is from Fargo Park District, City of Fargo, and Cass County Soil Conservation District.

Supplies – 13,500 trees/shrubs whips x \$1.40 = \$18,900; 1500 larger trees/shrubs x \$5 = \$7500; Other supplies including – Plantskydd, tubex, fabric squares, backpack sprayer = \$5000. River Keepers owns planting equipment such as wheelbarrows and shovels = \$1000. Project Sponsor's Share is for woodchips and delivery = \$12,000.

Land Value – 150 acres of City of Fargo riparian property will be impacted. Land value along the river varies depending upon its relationship to the floodplain. It could be as low as .35/square foot in the floodplain to as much as \$4/square foot on higher riparian land for an average of \$20,000 an acre.

Administrative Cost – Office space, bookkeeping costs, office equipment (such as computer, telephone, printer, paper, etc.)

Mileage – 56.5 cents/mile x 1000 miles per year.

In-kind services used to match the request for Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars shall be valued as follows:

- Labor costs \$15.00 an hour
- Land costs Average rent costs for the county as shown in the most recent publication of the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services, North Dakota Field Office
- Equipment Any equipment purchased must be listed separately with documentation showing actual cost.
- Equipment usage Actual documentation
- Seed & Seedlings Actual documentation
- Transportation Mileage at federal rate
- Supplies & materials Actual documentation

More categories will be added as we better understand the types of applications that will be submitted. We will use as our basis for these standards other State and Federal programs that have established rates. For example the North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program has established rates. If your project includes work that has an established rate under another State Program please use those rates and note your source.

Approved by OHF Advisory Board: October 17, 2013
 Approved by Industrial Commission: October 22, 2013

December 2, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express our enthusiastic support for River Keepers *North Dakota Heritage Fund* grant proposal. For over ten years, Cass County Soil Conservation District has partnered with River Keepers in their efforts to promote education and improvement of our local riparian areas. Collaborating throughout the years has allowed our District to see firsthand, the productive, energetic, and cost-effective work that River Keepers does for the benefit of our communities and the many successful outcomes of their programming.

River Keepers has been a leader in educating the public about proper resource use through collaborative campaigns and events, aimed at improving habitat, water quality and quantity, and quality of life in our communities. Additionally, River Keepers has been a leader in creating educational and informational programs including riparian tree planting projects, riverbank clean-ups, and a variety of community education workshops focused on local resource concerns. These programs not only allow opportunities for youth and adult education, but open the doors for education and volunteer opportunities for traditionally underserved residents of our growing communities. As a result of this vigilant work, River Keepers has become a vital part of our regional community, and acceptance of this proposal would allow River Keepers to continue and build upon these very important community programs.

I would also like to recognize that this year; our Urban Conservation program awarded River Keepers with their annual *Urban Steward* award. This award was granted to River Keepers in appreciation of their efficiency and commitment to conservation education and implementation of conservation practices in the Red River Valley. For these reasons and more, we give full support to this project knowing that it will greatly improve local resource use and the quality of life for all communities in the Red River Valley. In further support of this project, our Urban Conservation program is also fully prepared to provide staff time to this project knowing that it will meet our shared visions and missions for a more sustainable Red River Valley.

Please contact me at (701) 282-2157, extension 121 or at courtney.kastning@nd.nacdnet.net if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Courtney Kastning
Urban Conservationist, Cass County Soil Conservation District

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

John Grove
Fargo

Richard Faught
Amenia

Terry Hoffmann
Wheatland

Brad Kellerman
Davenport

Kurt Knutson
Page

DISTRICT STAFF

Wayne Stautz
Office Coordinator

Amy Cole
District Clerk

Tony Peterson
District Technician

Eric Dahl
319 Watershed Coordinator

Courtney Kastning
Urban Conservationist



**PUBLIC WORKS
OPERATIONS**

Fleet Management, Forestry,
Streets & Sewers, Watermeters,
Watermains & Hydrants
402 23rd STREET NORTH
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 58102
PHONE: (701) 241-1453
FAX: (701) 241-8100

November 26, 2013

Outdoor Heritage Fund/The Industrial Commission of ND
State Capitol 14th Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave – Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Commissioners,

The City of Fargo Forestry Department enthusiastically supports the FM River Keepers “Outdoor Heritage Fund” grant proposal offered by the Industrial Commission of ND.

Our mission is to promote and maintain a safe, healthy, and continuously progressive urban forestry program that benefit’s all residents. This potential grant opportunity is a great compliment to this mission.

To the best of our ability, the Forestry Department is prepared to contribute technical and staff assistance to help make this successful.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Liudahl
City Forester
701-241-1466

riverkeepers support letter 11-26-13.doc



December 2, 2013

Outdoor Heritage Fund/The Industrial Commission of ND
State Capitol 14th Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave.-Dept. 405
Bismarck ND 58505

Dear Commissioners:

The Fargo Park District will fully support the FM River Keepers "Outdoor Heritage Fund" grant proposal that is being submitted for your consideration.

The City of Fargo continues to convert riparian residential areas to green space to alleviate flood concerns in the Red River Valley. The scope of this grant will help maintain these expanding green areas of the City of Fargo's Urban Forest that currently do not receive maintenance due to budget constraints.

The Fargo Park District will contribute technical assistance and staff as needed to make this a success.

Sincerely,

Jeff Haberman

Jeff Haberman
Park District Forester
701-866-4520
jhaberman@fargoparks.com

Park Board

Barb Johnson, Commissioner
Joel Vettel, Commissioner
Ron Sorvaag, Commissioner
Mary Johnson, Commissioner
Joe Deutsch, Commissioner
Chris Kennelly, Clerk

Administration

Roger Gress,
Executive Director

Jim Larson,
Director of Finance/Human
Resources

Dave Leker,
Director of Parks

Clay Whittlesey,
Director of Recreation

Carolyn Boutain,
Director of Cultural Activities

Kevin Boe,
General Manager
Courts Plus Community Fitness

Brian Arett,
Director Valley Senior Services

Amy Rasmussen,
Administrative Assistant

Tara Nielsen,
Administrative Assistant

