

## *Diverse Community Center:*

*Redeveloping the Fargo downtown area to unify and unite people amongst various cultures to maintain a diverse community.*



# *Diverse Community Center*

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*Redeveloping the Fargo downtown area to unify and unite people amongst various cultures to maintain a diverse community.*

*A Design Thesis Submitted to the  
Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture  
of North Dakota State University*

*By*

*Kevin Pham*

*In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of  
Bachelor of Landscape Architecture*

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*Thesis Committee Chair*

*May 2011  
Fargo, North Dakota*





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*STATEMENT OF INTENT*

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# Thesis Abstract

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Kevin Pham

## Title

*Diverse Community: Redeveloping the Fargo downtown area to unify and unite people amongst various cultures to maintain a diverse community.*

## Summary

*The purpose of this thesis is to create and design a place for extraordinary activities for people of diverse cultures and backgrounds within the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. Fargo is a continually developing city where many cultures exist. However, there are rarely opportunities for the initiation of cross cultural interaction. This thesis will explore how the Fargo community should incorporate and learn about other cultures. Breaking the borders between each culture, attending different cultural gatherings and developing more sustainable cross cultural relationships are critical in creating a diverse place to live.*

## Key Words

*Understanding, Uniting and Unifying different cultures*



## *Problem Statement*

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*How can a place be designed to encourage cross cultural events in Fargo that will contribute to the social sustainability of the city?*



## *Project Typology*

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*This project aims to create a cultural center in the urban scene to build stronger relationship among various cultures.*



# Theoretical Premise

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## Claim

A cultural center in an urban area can promote communication among users and strengthen the social resilience of a culturally diverse community.

## Supporting Premises

Cultural centers have been constructed in many cities and they work successfully in terms of attracting large groups of people. They make a great place for meetings and social gatherings. However, despite Fargo being the largest city in North Dakota, it lacks cultural centers within the city. Fargo-Moorhead currently contains some cultural centers such as the Hjemkomst Center, Cultural Diversity Resources, and Cultural Diversity at NDSU; but these are not strongly developed within the Fargo-Moorhead area.

When people with different opinions and values gather together to provide an opportunity for community experience, they will break down the barriers often created by the lack of communication between different ethnicities. There are 5,000 refugees from 40 countries who have resettled in Fargo since 1990. However, many of these refugees are struggling to understand and interact with different cultures, causing segregation between ethnic groups. Therefore, the development of a cultural center is necessary for the Fargo-Moorhead area. According to the psychotherapist Joanna Poppink, creating a public space in an urban scene is not just for enjoyable entertainment, but it also increases the health of urban life. She also believes that most people's fears and distrustful attitudes are related to a lack of open spaces where different groups can interact.

We as designers need to construct appealing public places that attract others to a site, such as Baltimore's Harbor Place, Manhattan's South Street Seaport, Boston's Faneuli Hall, and London's Covent Garden. These enjoyable places all contribute to a more accessible and pleasurable environment by incorporating a street market, shopping mall, public plaza, and amphitheater for people from various cultures. These places are known to bring people together to become stronger communities.



## *Theoretical Premise*

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### *Conclusion*

*To achieve interaction among the diverse community within the Fargo downtown area, the development of a cultural center is necessary. This cultural center will contribute to a more diverse and friendlier environment for the Fargo-Moorhead community.*



## *Project Justification*

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*An increase of cultural centers in the urban environment will improve the development of a sustainable community. Communication is an important aspect that will help set aside the ethnic differences in order to unite. If people don't get out of the house, they fill themselves with the fantasies that are created by television and their own fears. However, when people experience the real world, they will start to understand the different characteristics and aspects of people such as ages, races and relationships that they can observe firsthand (Morgan 1996). These can help build a sense of community and will initiate a new beginning for a more diverse community.*



*THESIS PROPOSAL*

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## Narrative

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*Cross cultural skills are absent in Fargo due to the lack of public space available for people to interact. Fargo has many public spaces such as West Acres Mall, Island Park, Lindenwood Park and downtown commercial corridors; however, these public spaces are most often used by individuals. Therefore, we should create a cultural center to break down the barriers that are caused by a lack of communication between different ethnicities to promote public events and to increase cross cultural interaction. As designers, we must develop a safe, healthy and sustainable community for people. A designer must consider everyone's needs by gathering information from various cultures and understanding their daily life interactions.*

*According to the City of Fargo, there are almost 5,000 refugees from 40 countries who have relocated to the community since 1990. Despite this being a relatively small portion of the population, we as designers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy community for these people to live in. The Social Lutheran Church and Cultural Diversity Resources have supported minimum standards for designers to allow immigrants to live in this safe community, which mean a strong community needs to be developed. The Social Lutheran Church is a statewide social services ministry that provides a lifespan of care to individuals, families and communities.*

*The Social Lutheran Church and Cultural Diversity Resources guidelines are to help immigrants adapt to their new society. Many immigrants struggle to understand and interact with different cultures, resulting in segregation between various cultures. Social Lutheran Church and Cultural Diversity Resources understands the benefits of diversity in our community.*



## Narrative

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*Throughout history, landscape architects have focused on the benefits of creating more public spaces for social interaction in order to maintain a sustainable community. However, Fargo lacks public spaces to hold diverse cultural events. Cultural Diversity Resources tries to maintain a diverse community within Fargo by hosting a multi-ethnic picnic for immigrants annually. Approximately 300 people from various cultures attend this special event each year. In the future, there will be an increase in the number of refugees in Fargo. Therefore, the number of people attending the multi-ethnic picnic will increase. However, due to the lack of space and resources this event won't be able to expand. A cultural center could help this event grow stronger and could bring more people together within the community to develop a sustainable community.*

*In this thesis, I will investigate many different methods and techniques that can be used to create a place for a diverse cultural community between to help people understand more about other cultures in order to break the barriers between them.*



## *User/Client Description*

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*Downtown Fargo currently contains many commercial corridors and a large group of diverse people. The North Dakota State University campus and 13th Avenue South are major commercial hot spots for the City of Fargo. Downtown Fargo is located in between the campus of North Dakota State University and 13th Avenue South. With the initiate of downtown commercial corridors and 13th Avenue South commercial hot spot, it will help provide an opportunities for downtown Fargo to attract various groups and provides activities for all users.*

### *The Client/Owner*

*The City of Fargo will be the owner and client for the project. According to the Fargo-Moorhead Downtown Framework Plan (2000), the plan is to further strengthen the connections between downtown Fargo and Moorhead to improve an urban form and to foster a genuine identity and sense of place. Since Fargo and Moorhead are adjacent to each other, it is important to connect both cities together to build a stronger connection for people in both cities.*

### *The User*

*The people within the community will be the users of this redevelopment space in downtown Fargo. However, the space must be designed to meet the needs and expectations of people of all ages and various ethnicities.*



# Major Project Elements

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The goal of this thesis is to create a place within downtown Fargo to attract more people and to provide a sense of diverse community so people will have a chance to experience and respect other cultures. The major project elements that will make this diverse community possible are defined below.

## Open Spaces:

- Community Garden:* Bringing people from various cultures together to increase a sense of community ownership and stewardship.

Size: 28,800 sf                      Quantity: 50 - 100 gardeners
- Public Plaza:* To increase communication among users and strengthen the social resilience of a culturally diverse community.

Size: 20,000 sf                      Quantity: 200 - 300 people
- Farmers Market:* To encourage social interaction among people within a community and also help bring life into the city.

Size: 18,000 sf                      Quantity: 60 booths
- Food Vendors:* To increase attention to public health concerns.

Size: 3,000 sf                      Quantity: 10 booths
- Active Space:* Provide space for more outdoor recreational activities for people.

Size: ~                                  Quantity: ~
- Amphitheater:* To accommodate a space for entertainment and leisure activities for people.

Size: 12,000 sf                      Quantity: 500 - 600 people



# Major Project Elements

---

## Urban Design/Structure:

- Retail Stores:* To incorporate more ethnic stores within the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Size: 7,000 sf per 1 store    Quantity: 15 stores
- Residential Complexes:* To provide more living space for people to increase a more sustainable community.

Size: 7,000 sf per 1            Quantity: 5
- Offices:* To provide users with information about difference cultural events.

Size: 200 sf per 1            Quantity: 5
- Entertainment:* To host special cultural events to enlighten the community about the qualities of different cultures.

Size: 12,000 sf            Quantity: 500 - 600 people
- Meeting Hall:* To organize meetings about cultural events from the community.

Size: 900 sf            Quantity: 1 (50-60 people)



## Site Information

---

*Regional:*



*Image 1*

*North Dakota is located in the upper-midwest region of the United States. It is bordered by Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, and Saskatchewan and Manitoba, Canada. North Dakota was discovered in the late 1800s by European fur traders. Farmers arrived in the state after the Indian War due to the development of railroads. North Dakota is considered part of the Great Plains because it is located in the prairie lands. It contains rich soil; therefore, wheat farming is important for North Dakota's economy.*



## Site Information

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City:

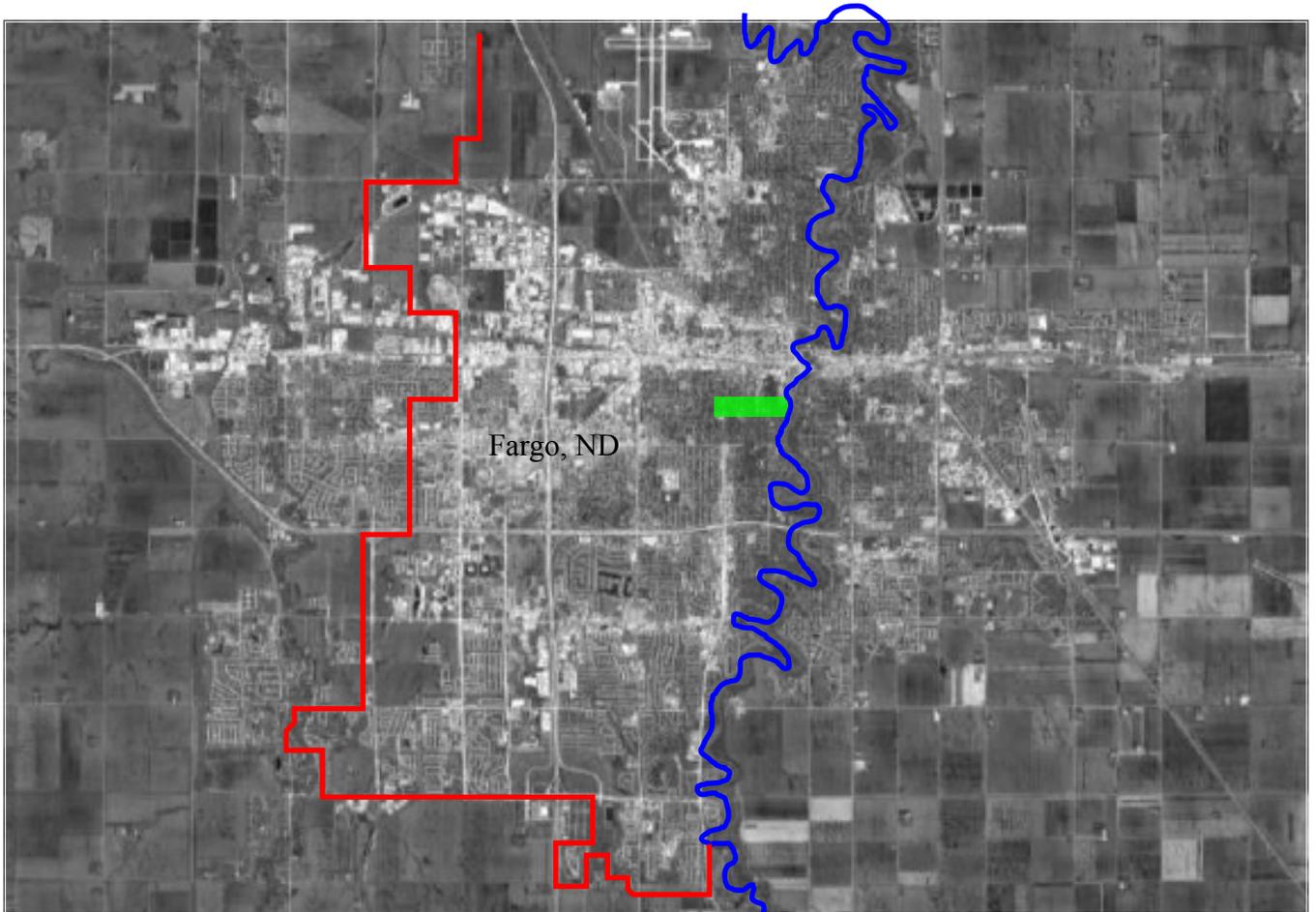


Image 2

*Fargo is located in Cass County, which is in southeastern North Dakota. It sits on the Red River of the North in a flat geographic region known as the Red River Valley. Fargo is the largest city in the state. It was founded in 1871 by the Northern Pacific Railway at its crossing point on the river. According to the City of Fargo, the community now has a population of 95,556 and encompasses 37.9 square miles. Lutheran Social Services stated that there are about 353 refugees who settle in Fargo each year.*



## Site Information

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### City:

Fargo promotes a diverse community by hosting many special events for immigrants annually. These special events consist of food, games and social dances. These special events give people the opportunity to experience various cultures. In the summer, Lindenwood Park hosts a multi-ethnic picnic for family and friends. The multi-ethnic picnic consists of a variety of foods from different countries, social gatherings and many games. According to Cultural Diversity Resources, approximately 300 people attend annually. There is an increased number of refugees coming to Fargo each year; therefore, the number of people attending this multi-ethnic picnic will gradually increase.



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5



## Site Information

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### City:

Many immigrants arrive in Fargo for a new beginning; however, most maintain their own culture. With a limited amount of resources, there is not enough public space to host cultural events. Last fall, I had an opportunity to attend the Btunese festival, Durga Puja, which is a worship celebration of the Hindu goddess Durga. This special event is located in several garages on the corner of 44th Street and 15th Avenue Southwest in Fargo. Even with a limited amount of resources, these people still want to host this special event in order to show others the importance of preserving their cultures.



Image 6



Image 7



Image 8



Image 9



## Site Information

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Site:

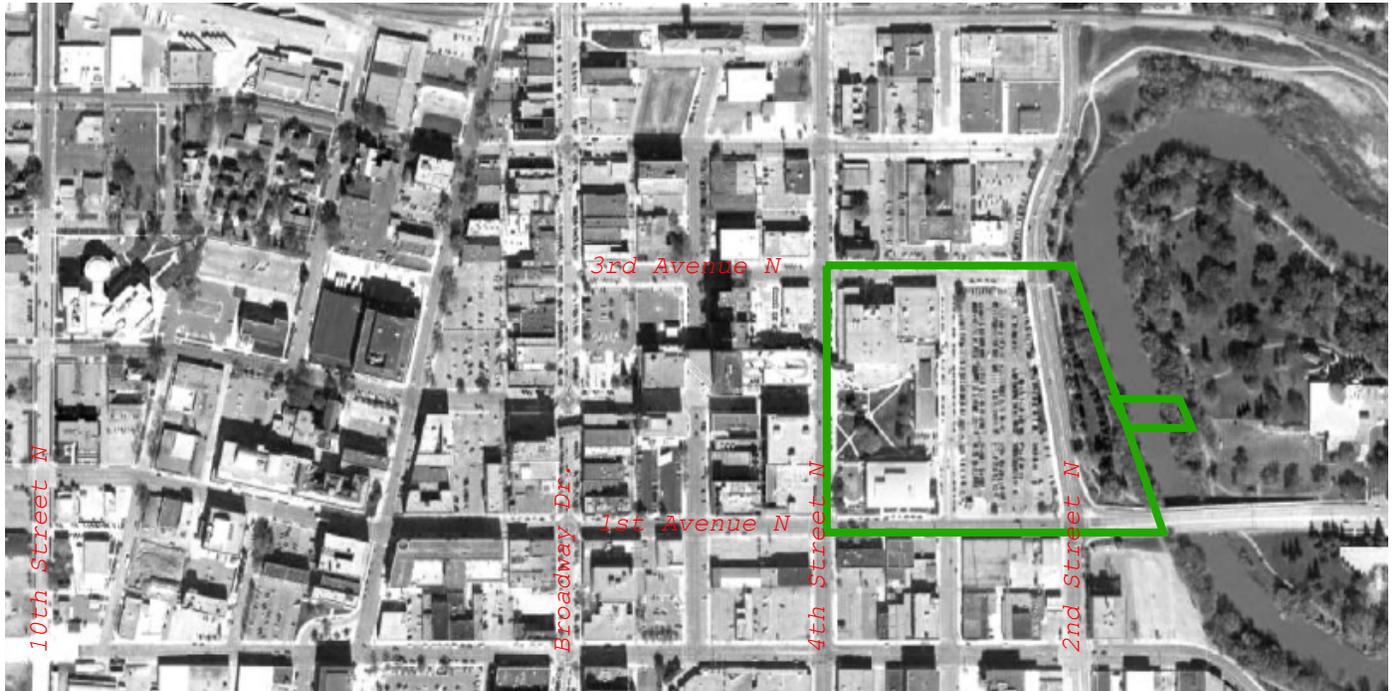


Image 10

The site is located downtown Fargo. It begins at 4th Street North and goes to the Red River, and includes 2nd Avenue North and the implied corridor connection to the river. This 0.05 square mile site has many advantages regarding the development of this thesis project. The site is within the downtown area providing easy accessibility and visibility for many people. About six blocks northwest of the site is the North Dakota State University campus, which is a college with many different cultures. West of the site is the Hjemkomst Center, where many cultural events occur. In the map above, the green outline indicates the area that will be redeveloped. The goal for this thesis project is to redevelop downtown Fargo to help many different groups of people interact within society and build more sustainable communities.



## Site Information

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### Site:

*in mid July, downtown Fargo hosts a street fair on Broadway and part of 2nd Avenue annually. The street fair includes arts and crafts, games, vendors, shops and entertainment. The street fair is the biggest free social gathering in Fargo, and family and friends attend yearly. This event will draw more people to the site.*



Image 11



Image 12



Image 13



## Site Information

---

### Site:

Along 1st Avenue North in Moorhead, MN, the Hjemkomst Center hosts Pangea-Cultivate Our Cultures to gather many ethnicities group together to learn and share diverse cultures and talents through cultural performances, ethnic foods, cultural exhibits and children's activities. Pangea was the name given to the world when all the continents were connected, which is a metaphor for the Pangea event where the cultures unite.



Image 14



Image 15



Image 16



Image 17



## Project Emphasis

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*This thesis will focus on how interaction and communication can benefit the community. According to Mather Carmona 'the design of the public space can develop an opportunity for social contact as stated in his book called Public Places, Urban Spaces: The Dimension of Urban Design. The emphasis of this project will be based on three areas: improving the physical ties between Fargo and Moorhead, controlling storm water management and incorporating social spaces that can promote cultural interaction.*



## *Plan for Proceeding*

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*The goal of this thesis is to ensure that the research conducted is complete, appropriate and beneficial. Some areas that will be explored include urban public space, urban culture, pedestrian activities and the connection of both cities. These materials are essential for designers to incorporate gatherings of various cultures. We as designers need to design a place that will break down the borders between various cultures.*

*On a large scale, will incorporating a building be beneficial to the community? Will it increase the number of visitors gathering at a site? Will it bring more of an attraction to the Fargo downtown area? On an individual scale, will it make the Fargo downtown area more friendly, safe and diverse? Will it build strong close relationships between others? Will it increase the communication skills between people?*



## Previous Studio Experience

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### Second Year Studio:

LA 271 Fall Semester: Introduction to Landscape Architecture Studio  
Instructor: Catherine Wiley (2006)  
Ideal Landscape - Fargo, ND  
West Side Elementary School - Fargo, ND

LA 272 Spring Semester: Open Space Studio  
Instructor: Mark Lindquist (2007)  
Nathan Phillips Square - Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Mahnomon Senior Center - Mahnomon, MN  
Valley City State University Sports Field - Valley City, ND

### Third Year Studio:

LA 371 Fall Semester: Environmental Art Studio  
Instructor: Stevie Famulari (2007)  
Community Park for Cooperstown - Cooperstown, ND  
Revelations: Exploring Space Through Change

LA 372 Spring Semester: Community Planning and Design Studio  
Instructor: Kathleen Pepple (2008)  
NDSU Triangular - Fargo, ND  
NDSU Bicycle Connection - Fargo, ND  
Jefferson Park - Fargo, ND

### Fourth Year Studio:

LA 471 Fall Semester: Urban Design Studio  
Instructor: Mark Lindquist (2009)  
Triangle Park - Portland, OR  
Buckman Neighborhood - Portland, OR

LA 472 Spring Semester: Phytoremediation Studio  
Instructor: Stevie Famulari (2010)  
Acid Canyon - Los Alamos, NM  
Hesco Basket Flood Mitigation Design Competition-Fargo, ND



## *Previous Studio Experience*

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### *Fifth Year Studio:*

*LA 571 Fall Semester: Environmental Planning Studio*

*Instructor: Catherine Wiley (2010)*

*Sheyenne National Grassland/Bison Reintroduction-McLeod, ND*

*LA 572 Spring Semester: Design Thesis*

*Instructor: Jason Kost (2011)*

*Diverse Community - Fargo, ND*



*PROGRAM DOCUMENT*

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## Research Results and Goals

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*This thesis will focus on applying social and cultural benefits to the urban environment to increase cross cultural interaction. The investigation will identify the opportunities and constraints of the Fargo downtown area, creating public space to attract and entertain people. Therefore, it makes downtown Fargo a unique place to provide a sense of community and culture aspects, increasing a greenway to attract more pedestrians, and connecting Fargo and Moorhead to improve the lives of people within the community.*

*The goal of this research was to present the importance of public space, which remedies the stress, loneliness, and alienation among people. The evidence was collected, providing people with a better understanding of how public space gathers people together individually and as a larger community to share common ideals and cultures.*

*The research results were based on surveying people within the community. The surveys were collected from NDSU students and people within the Fargo-Moorhead area. The surveys explore what places in the Fargo-Moorhead area provided great chances to meet new people to unite and build a stronger community. The research result was to look beyond the community and neighborhood to locate a place where there would be many opportunities for close social gatherings. There were a few surveys in which some students stated that the mall would be a place for social gathering, but mostly the surveys concluded that there was rarely or even none.*



## Research Results and Goals

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*In order to obtain a better understanding on utilizing a cultural center as a place to ensure cross cultural interaction, the research was guided by the City of Fargo, Lutheran Social Service and Cultural Diversity Resources. According to Lutheran Social Service estimates, about 353 refugees come to Fargo yearly. This rate is rapidly growing each year. I continued the research by talking to the refugees in the Fargo-Moorhead area. I concluded that most of the refugees feel separated from others in the Fargo-Moorhead area due to the lack of public spaces to meet new people. Some also stated that they don't know where social events or gatherings took place. This can be improved by incorporating a space in the busy downtown area for people to attend gatherings. To create a space where everyone is treated equally and no one is left out, research should be conducted. With a social gathering place, our community would be more understanding about various cultures, which would lead to a safer and healthier community to live in.*

*This social gathering place would consist of retail stores, offices, entertainment, outdoor recreational spaces, residential complexes, community gardens and a public plaza. All of these new additions to this cultural center will create a better place for visitors, workers, students and citizens. A greenway will also be developed to increase the attraction in the downtown Fargo area. This greenway will connect Fargo and Moorhead to build a stronger relationship between the two cities.*



## *Case Studies*

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## Case Studies

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### Case Study 1:

*Project Name: Multi-cultural Center*

*Project Type: Community Center*

*Location: Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

*Size/Area: 127,116 square feet*

#### *Distinguishing Characteristics of the Case:*

*The multi-cultural center of Sioux Falls aims to provide many opportunities for diverse people to learn, celebrate, and share through cultural experiences. The multi-cultural center also helps newcomers interact with the Sioux Falls community and the American culture by providing resources to learn the English language fluently and life skills education.*

#### *Existing Program/Events Elements*

- The cultural appreciation, respect, and education (C.A.R.E) summer program*
- After school sports programs and self-defense class*
- Free immunization clinics, food and nutrition orientation programs*
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) mentoring programs*
- Crime prevention and safety programs, and adult computer education training programs*

*This center is utilized for indoor and outdoor space based on seasonality for cultural celebration.*

*The case study sets a great example of designing a place for diverse cultural interaction. The project was successful because studies show that 92 percent of the students used the information that they learned in the program to improve their relationships with others. This also helps students build their self-esteem to learn new sports skill, which helps them interact with American youth.*





## Case Studies

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### Case Study 2:

*Project Name: Midtown Farmers Market*

*Project Type: Farmers Market*

*Location: Minneapolis, MN*

*Size/Area: 28,000 square feet*

*The Midtown Farmers Market, created in 2003, produces food and goods locally with about 60,000 people visiting this place each year. The farmers market is located at 2225 East Lake Street in a parking lot which is owned by the public schools in Minneapolis. This farmers market has many opportunities for people within the neighborhood to meet new people. With the support of people in the neighborhoods, the market is able to grow and expand.*

*The Midtown Farmers Market focuses on promoting a vibrant forum in south Minneapolis to bring people within the community and nearby rural food producers together in a mutually beneficial economic and cultural exchange. This is a great place for the community to gather and celebrate the ever-exchanging local bounty with fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan crafts, ready-to-eat food and live music. People come to this place not just to meet friends and socialize; they come here to support the local businesses and the family farms. The midtown market also strives to provide affordable food to maintain a more sustainable community.*



# Case Studies

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## Case Study 2:

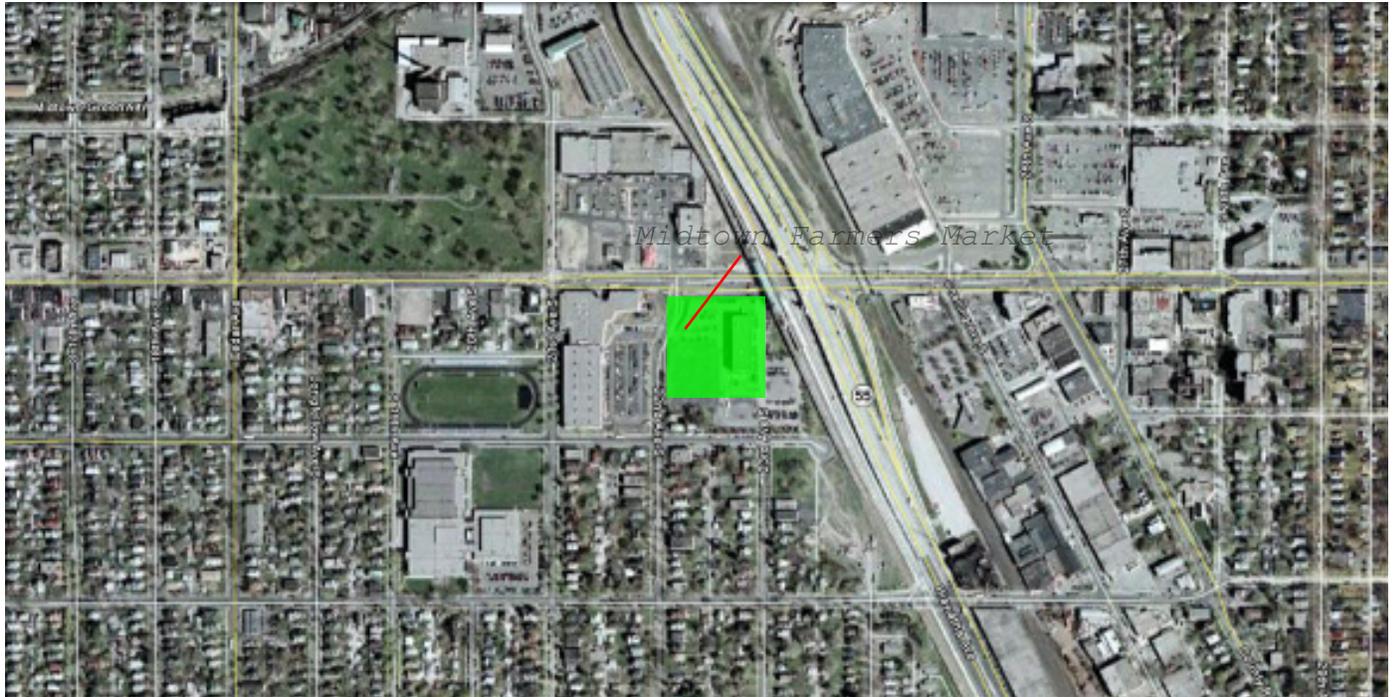


Image 22



Image 23



Image 24



## Case Studies

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### Case Study 3:

*Project Name: St. Paul's Rooftop Garden Grows Community, Health and Understanding*

*Project Type: Intercultural Community Garden*

*Location: Vancouver, Canada*

*Size/Area: 21,528 square feet*

*The community garden is located on the fourth floor of St. Paul's Hospital as part of the province's Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces program. The community garden helps bring people within the community together and it also provides a comfortable space for people of all ages with different cultural background. People come here to share experiences and meet new friends.*

*St. Paul's rooftop garden contains mandatory workshops where all gardeners available for information or questions. People gather at the workshops to discuss racism, homophobia and intercultural communication. This helps people from different backgrounds feel more comfortable and accepted in the community. This leads to open views about different cultures.*



# Case Studies

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## Case Study 3:



Image 25



Image 26



Image 27



*Research*

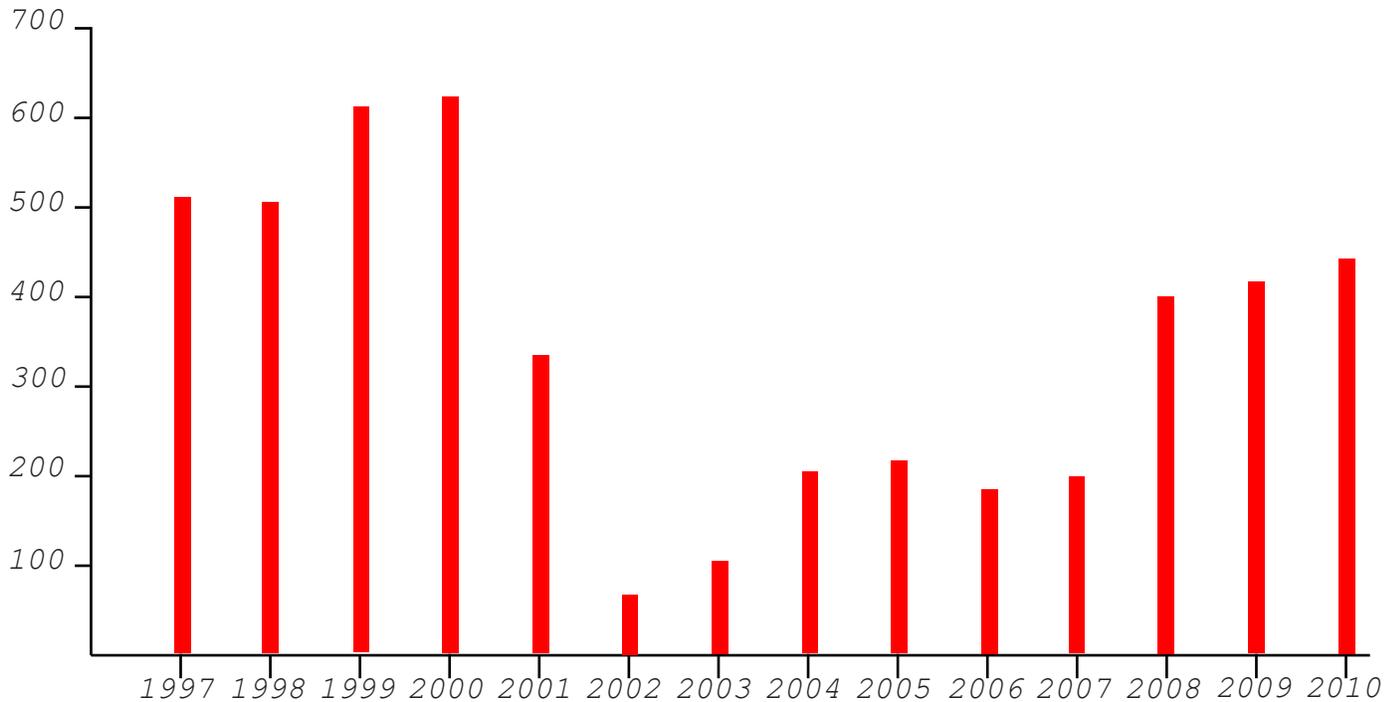
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## Research

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### Numbers of Individuals Resettled in Far-



*This graph shows the number of refugees that settle in Fargo annually. During the late 1990s and early 2000s there was an increased number of refugees; however, beginning in 2002 there was a decline in the number of refugees due to the strict regulations for a few years after the September 11 crisis. The U.S. limited the number of immigrants to the U.S. After the United States began to recover emotionally and mentally, it rose up as a nation above the tragedy of September 11 and increased the rate of refugees coming to America.*



# Research

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## Location of Immigrants Resettle



Image 28

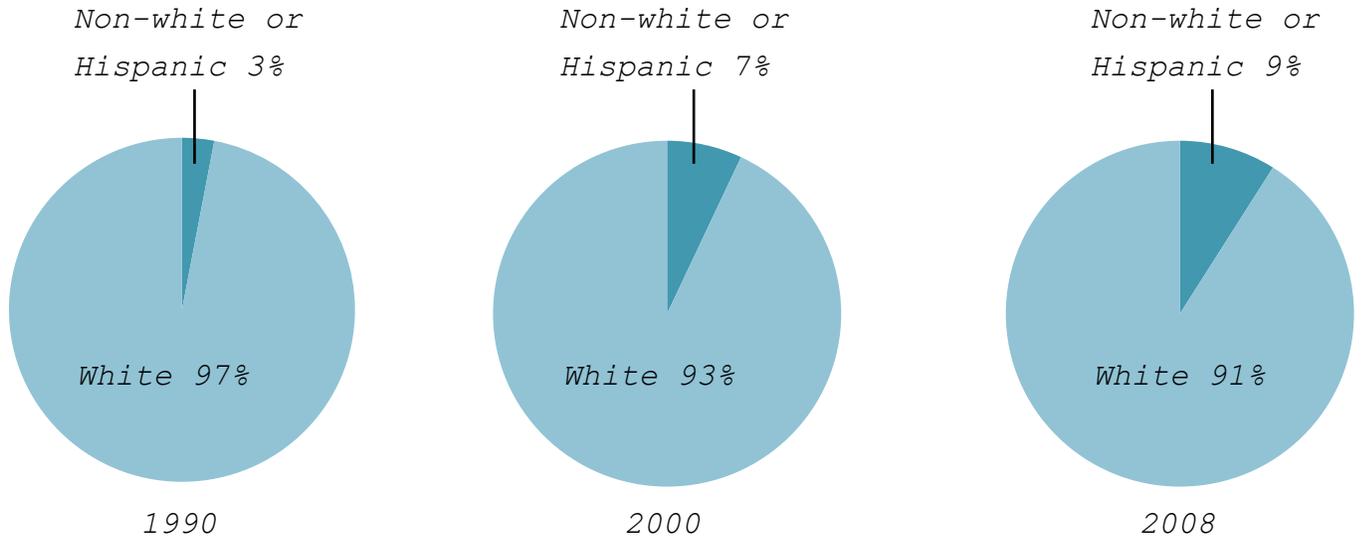
Areas highlighted in red indicate location of immigrants settled in Fargo.



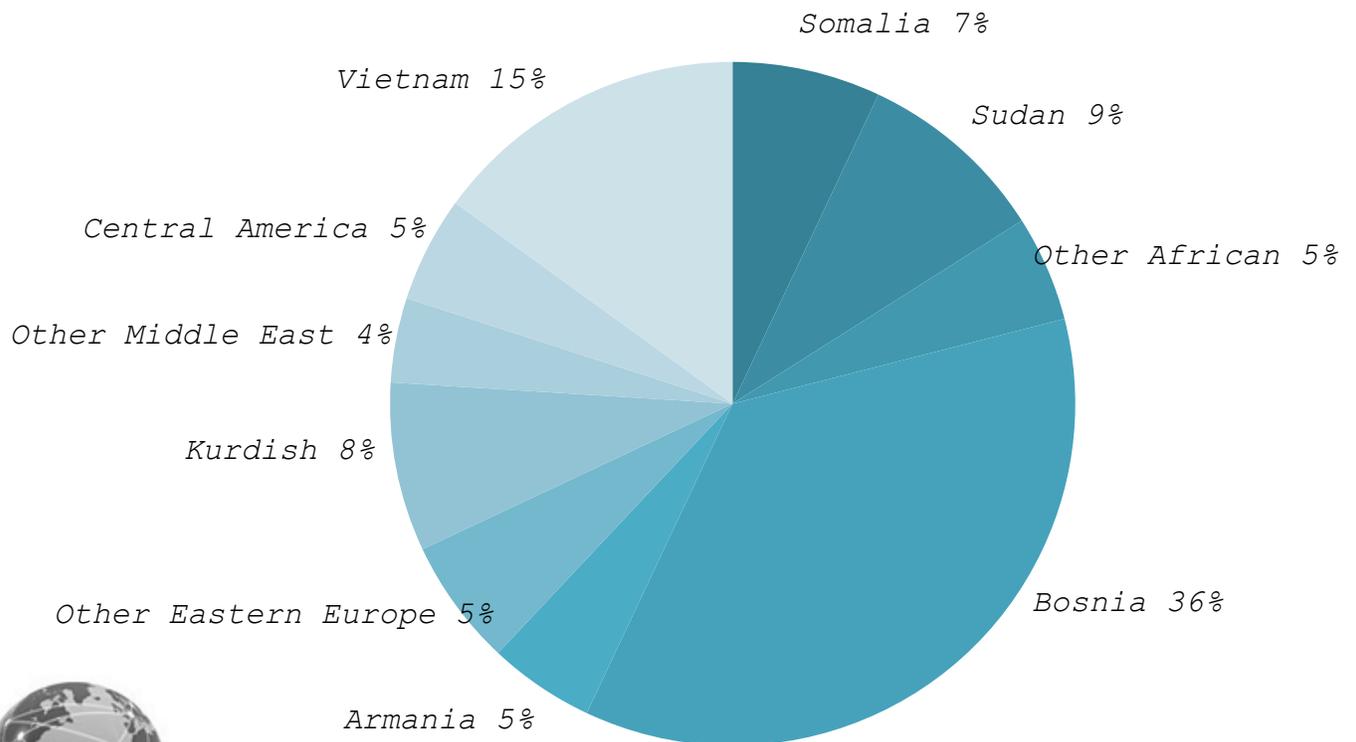
## Research

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White people make up the majority of Fargo's population, but racial/ethnic minorities more than tripled in population over the past two decades.



Almost 5,000 refugees from 40 countries have resettled in Fargo since 1990 with one in three coming to the U.S. from Bosnia.



## Typological Summary

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### Summary:

Cultural events held within communities have increased diversity around the world. These case studies have brought people together to learn, entertain and share the meaning of a diverse community. The Multi Cultural Center in Sioux Falls has provided many opportunities for people. It is a main attraction for comers new in the community, providing resources to learn the American culture. The Farmers Market in Minneapolis aims to provide people with different cultural foods locally. This market gathers people within the community and the rates are increasing annually. The rooftop garden grows community in Vancouver, Canada accommodates a space for people to meet others within the community. The rooftop area provides workshops to discuss a variety of topics. These case studies have successfully demonstrated the importance of a diverse community.



## *Historical Context*

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## Historical Context

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*Looking over the region's history, Fargo-Moorhead has not yet incorporated a public place within the downtown area to attract various people with different backgrounds. The City of Fargo has considered incorporating and redeveloping the downtown area to create a diverse and stronger community. In 2001, the City of Fargo developed a Framework Development Plan that maps out the downtown area to promote growth. This plan was updated in 2007 to build stronger connections for the people within Fargo-Moorhead. However, the idea has only been proposed and no further action has taken place.*



## Historical Context

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The Fargo-Moorhead Downtown Framework Plan was developed by the City of Fargo and Moorhead (2008) to identify communities that maintain healthy and diverse community development. The four major planning principles that help people better understand the effects of community development in Fargo and Moorhead are economic vitality, balanced housing choices, a vibrant city center and unique character elements (City of Fargo, 2008). Economic vitality provides an attractive area for the business environment, increasing the number of businesses and commercial enterprises to develop a more sustainable and diverse community. Balanced housing choices offer a variety of housing types and price ranges within the downtown area to build stronger relationships between the community and the neighborhoods. A vibrant city center makes downtown a main central destination for visitors and residents due to the increased human interaction. Unique character highlights the historical characteristics of Fargo-Moorhead and provides a quality of place for everyone.

### Fargo-Moorhead Downtown Framework Study Area

The red spots on the map indicate the study area, which includes downtown Fargo and Moorhead.



Image 30



## Historical Context

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### Fargo-Moorhead Downtown Framework Plan Update



Image 31

*The proposed plan for the Fargo Civic Center revitalizes City Hall while adding a new performing arts center, mixed-residential buildings with green roofs, and a civic plaza atop structured parking.*

- 1 - Fargo Public Library was built in 1902 and reconstructed in 1981*
- 2 - Fargo City Hall was built in 1961*
- 3 - Fargo Civic Center was built in 1961*
- 4 - Performing Arts Center future development*
- 5 - Mixed-residential future development*



## *Goals for the Thesis*

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## Goal for the Thesis

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*Over the course of completing my thesis, I will face many, challenges that will require me to go beyond the typical research for a well thought out design in an effort to several cultures. Not only will this thesis help build strong relationships, it will improve the lives of people within our community by providing a safe and healthy lifestyle. After completing my thesis, I would like to be able to bring my design to the City of Fargo and Lutheran Social Services to discuss how it might better help contribute to the establishment of a more diverse community.*



## Goal for the Thesis

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### Academic Goal

*Over the course of completing my thesis, I have learned much more than just the basics of landscape architecture. My short term goal is that I would like to complete all the landscape architecture courses to earn my bachelors degree in Landscape Architecture this spring. My long term goal is to continue my education by obtaining a masters degree in Landscape Architecture at North Dakota State University as well.*

### Professional Goal

*My knowledge and skills that I have acquired in school will be beneficial as I work for a landscape architecture business to gain more experience. After completing my masters degree in Landscape Architecture I would like to open my own Landscape Architecture business.*

### Personal Goal

*Over the course of completing my undergraduate courses, I have improved as a person. My knowledge, skills, and experiences are all big aspects of my life. They have developed me into become a stronger, more confident person and these skills will help me become successful as a landscape architect in the near future. I would open my own business to have the ability to demonstrate my skills wherever they are needed.*



## *Site Analysis*

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# Site Analysis

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## Narrative

*It is important that a landscape architect understand the existing condition of a site. This will help a designer with the design process. Every site has its own characteristics. Several characteristics include wet, dry, hot, cold, windy, calm, exposed or enclosed. These characteristics have a major impact in the design process. A designer must be familiar with the site before initiating the design. We need to visit the site and map out the existing conditions, understand the topography of the site, walk around the site and surrounding area to feel its natural environment.*

*When I visited the site located in downtown Fargo, the first reaction I had to this site was desolation. This is due to the huge parking lot located in front of Fargo City Hall that causes some disconnection between the riverfront and downtown. The City of Fargo has planned to redevelop the Fargo City Hall to improve the connection between Fargo and Moorhead and to create a sense of community for the downtown area. The downtown areas consist of many wide open spaces for parking lots which will give an attractiveness for people.*

## Existing Condition



Image 32



Image 33



# Site Analysis

## Inventory and Analysis Surrounding Area

Broadway is the focal point for the downtown area and there are many amenities. However, there is lack of greenery.

Downtown Fargo contains many parking lots, and most of them are located in private lots. These lots are blocked off to non-employees in the evening.

Second street separates the downtown from the river. Currently, there aren't any outdoor activities for the river to attract people.

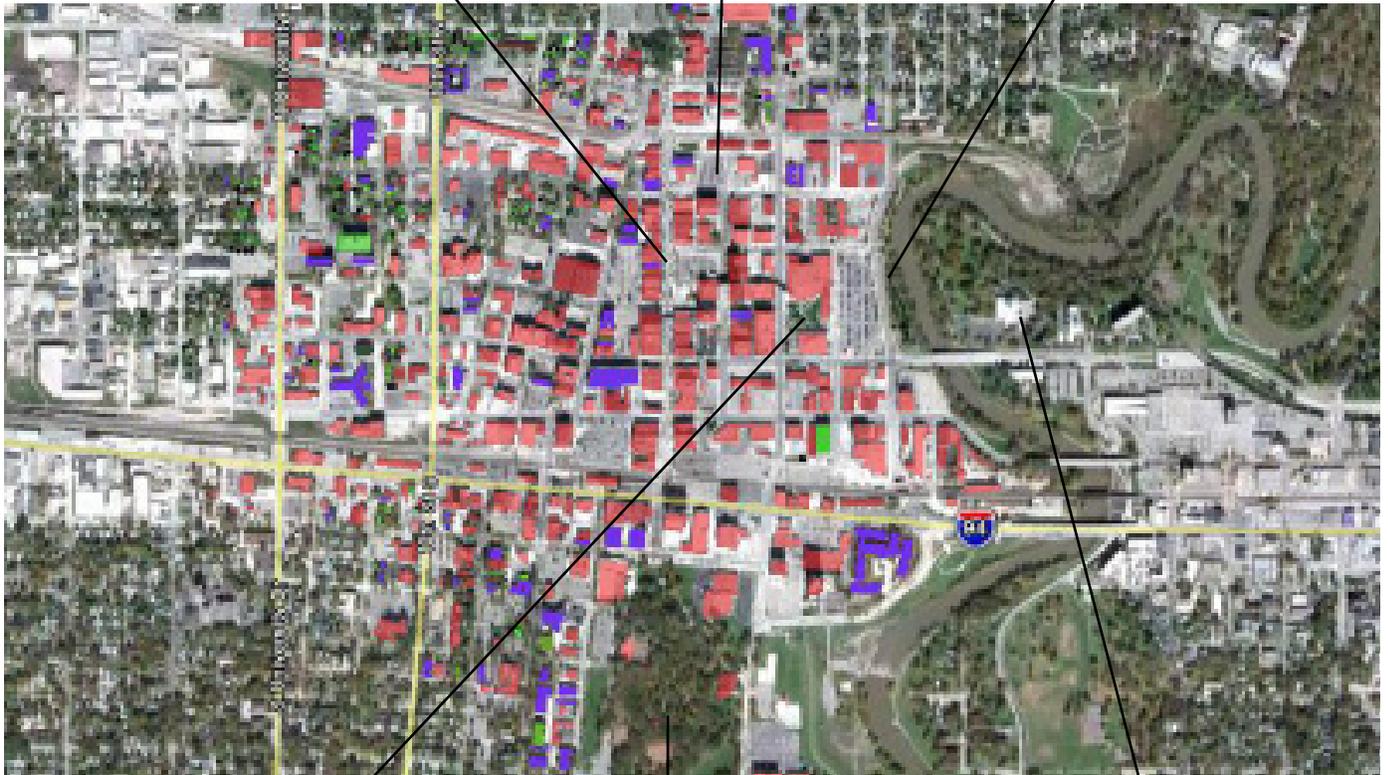


Image 34

Municipal Plaza is underutilized but this is due to the lack of leisure activities.

Island Park is separated from the downtown area. It contains a theater and farmers market for cultural uses.

Hjemkomst Center is located in Moorhead. This is where multi-cultural events occur each year.

### Legend

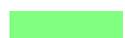
Commercial



Apartment



Dwelling



# Site Analysis

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## Macro Scale: Circulation and Green Space

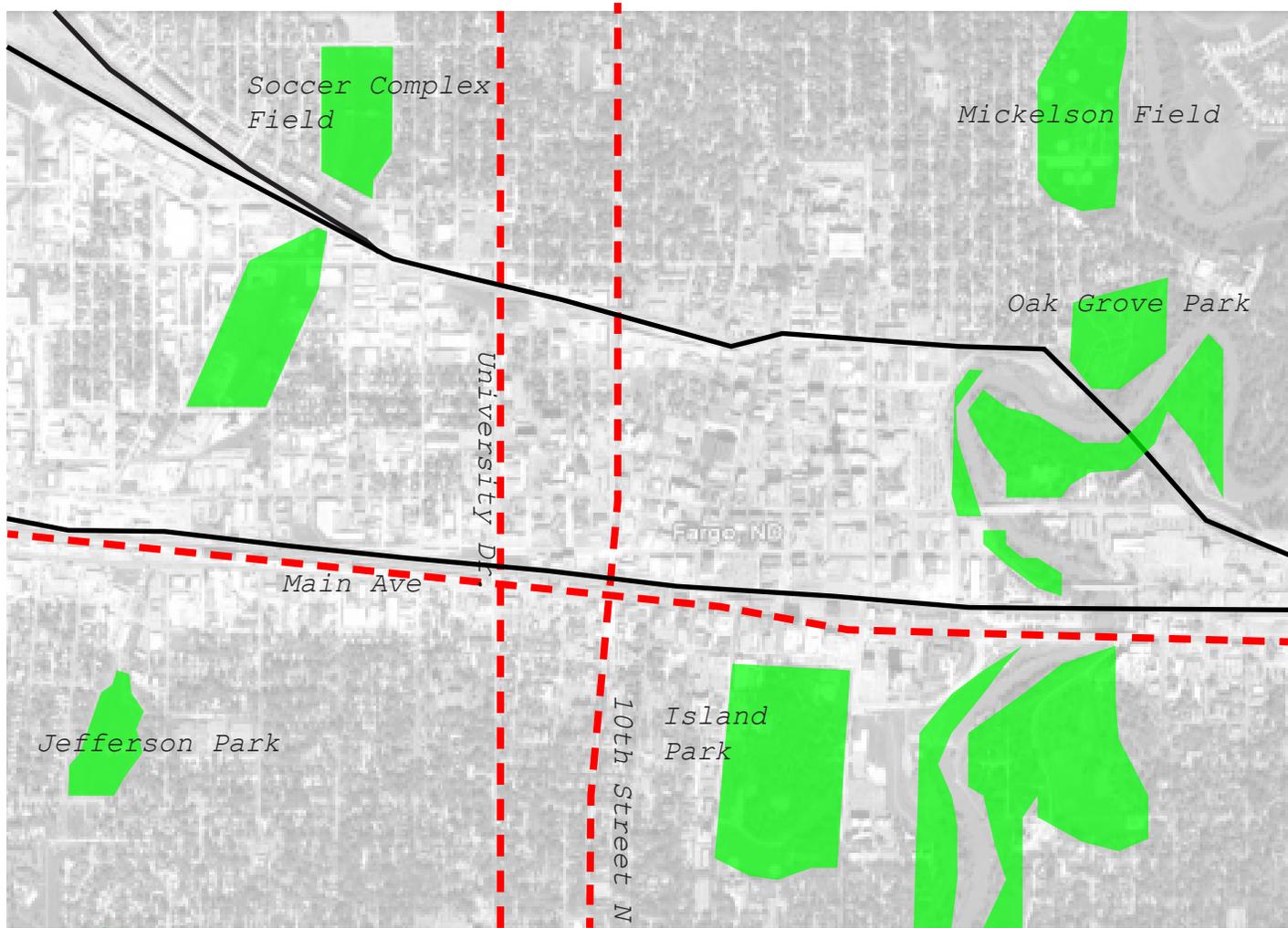


Image 35

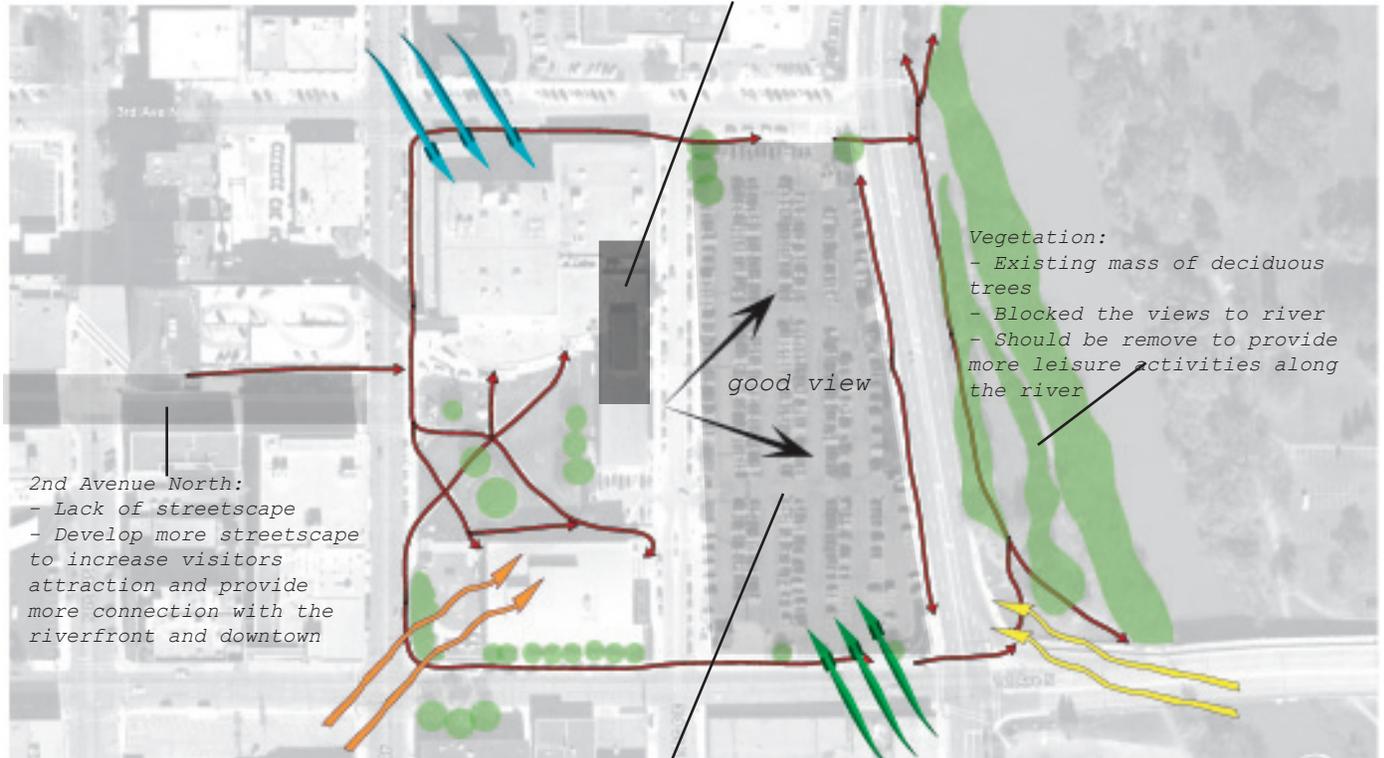
-  Railroad
-  Major Circulation Route
-  Public Green Space



# Site Analysis

## Micro Scale

- Fargo City Hall:*
- Blocked views to the river
  - Causing disconnection between riverfront and downtown
  - Should remove to provide open views and make connection between the river front and downtown



- 2nd Avenue North:*
- Lack of streetscape
  - Develop more streetscape to increase visitors attraction and provide more connection with the riverfront and downtown

- Vegetation:*
- Existing mass of deciduous trees
  - Blocked the views to river
  - Should be remove to provide more leisure activities along the river

- Parking Lot:*
- Poor visual condition
  - Disconnected downtown and river
  - Should redevelop to increase visitor attraction

Image 36

## Legends

### Sun Direction

Morning Sun

Evening Sun

### Wind Direction

Summer

Winter

### Circulation & Greenery

Circulation

Greenery



# Site Analysis

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## Context

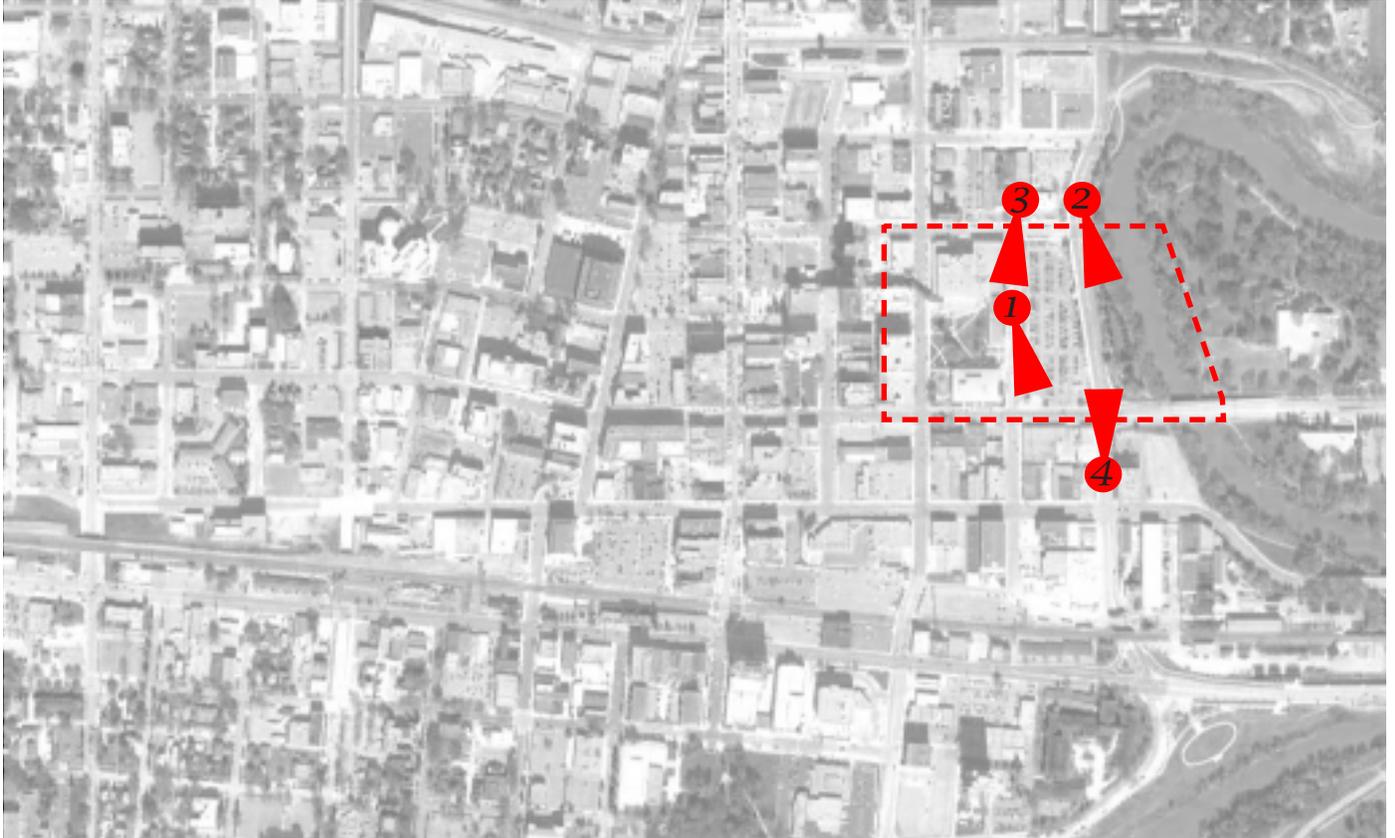


Image 37

The area outlined in red indicates the 12 acres that will cover the entire City Hall and its parking lot with riverfront. In between the Fargo Civic Center and Fargo Public Library, are open green spaces which may be used by the employees. Throughout the site there are many structures such as the Public Library, the Fargo Civic Center, and the City Hall of Fargo. The riverfront, located on the east side, contains many medium and large deciduous trees.

City Hall contains a huge parking lot in the front which does not capture people's attention, resulting in a disconnection between the pedestrian and downtown. The riverfront located on the east of City Hall includes the City Park, which is currently underutilized. In the summer, people rarely come to this park for relaxation or enjoyment due to the lack of activities.



# Site Analysis

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## Photographic Inventory and Analysis

### Civic Center



Image 38

The parking lot in front of City Hall makes this site unattractive and does not have a specific purpose for landscape, resulting in the absence of life and outdoor activity for the site between people and the community.

### Riverfront



Image 39

The riverfront does not have leisure activities for people due to the lack of recreational space. It currently consists of pedestrian walkways and a bike trail lining the Red River. People only use the pedestrian walkway and bike trail to go through. There isn't any natural attraction to the site.

### City Hall of Fargo



Image 40

City Hall lies between 4th and 2nd Streets North, which blocks 2nd Avenue North causing a disconnection between downtown and the river. Along 2nd Avenue there aren't any pedestrian activities to attract people to the river. However, the green way must be considered to connect downtown and river to bring more people to the site.



# Site Analysis

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## Photographic Inventory and Analysis

### 2nd Street North



Image 41

*This is what happens to the site when the city is under large flood predictions in the spring. The entire street is filled with soil to prevent city streets (City Hall, Fargo Public Library) from flooding. This solution causes a lack of accessibility for citizens in the Fargo and Moorhead areas to 2nd Street North for 3-6 weeks during the flood season. The soil will be placed on the road until the flood is over, causing damage for on road due to the absorption and contraction of soil in wet and dry climate, along with the construction damage before and after every year.*

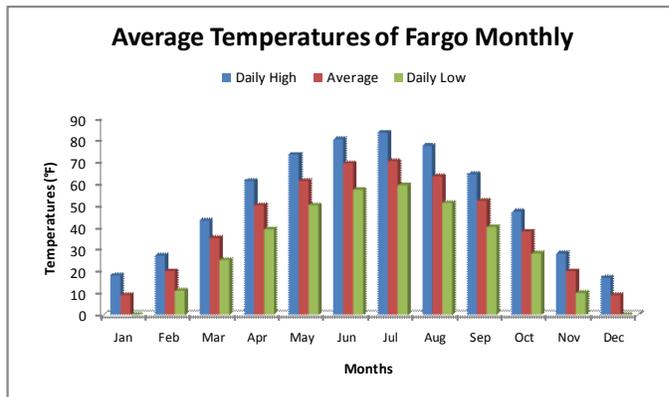


# Site Analysis

## Clinate

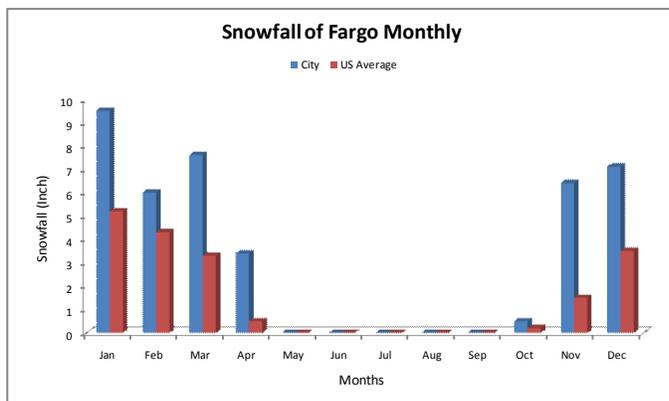
Fargo's climate is considered humid continental. This type of climate will have a greater temperature change than other climates. This can be proven based on Fargo's record of high and low temperature. Fargo's temperature reached to 114 degrees Fahrenheit in July of 1936, and in January of 1887 the temperature was 48 degrees Fahrenheit below zero (Holzkamm et al., 2001). The difference between the high and low temperature on record is 162 degrees. However, the changing of the climate will impact the environmental, cultural, social, and economic factors which shape the character of landscape.

### Average Temperature



The average temperature chart shows that the temperature in Fargo is typically lower than the US average. From October through March is when the temperature in Fargo is lower than average. This is the period when Fargo experiences most of its winter snowfall.

### snowfall



According to the chart, the snowfalls in Fargo-Moorhead occurs in October through April. The chart shows there is no trace of snow in May through September; this is a result of higher temperature.

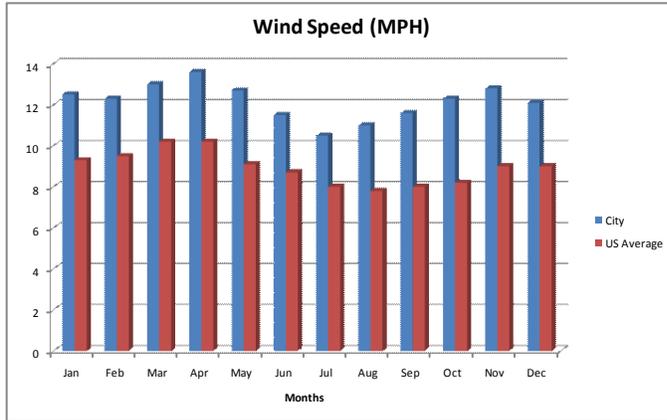


# Site Analysis

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## Climate

### Wind Speed



Wind speed in Fargo is higher than the U.S. average. When the wind speed and temperature combine causing windchill, they can have a large impact on outdoor activity.

### Topography and Contour



Image 42

As mentioned earlier, the Red River Valley is known as a flat geographic region. According to the USDA website, four blocks west of the river, the topography of the Fargo downtown matches the overall topography of the region.



# Site Analysis

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## Flood Issue

*Flood in 2009*



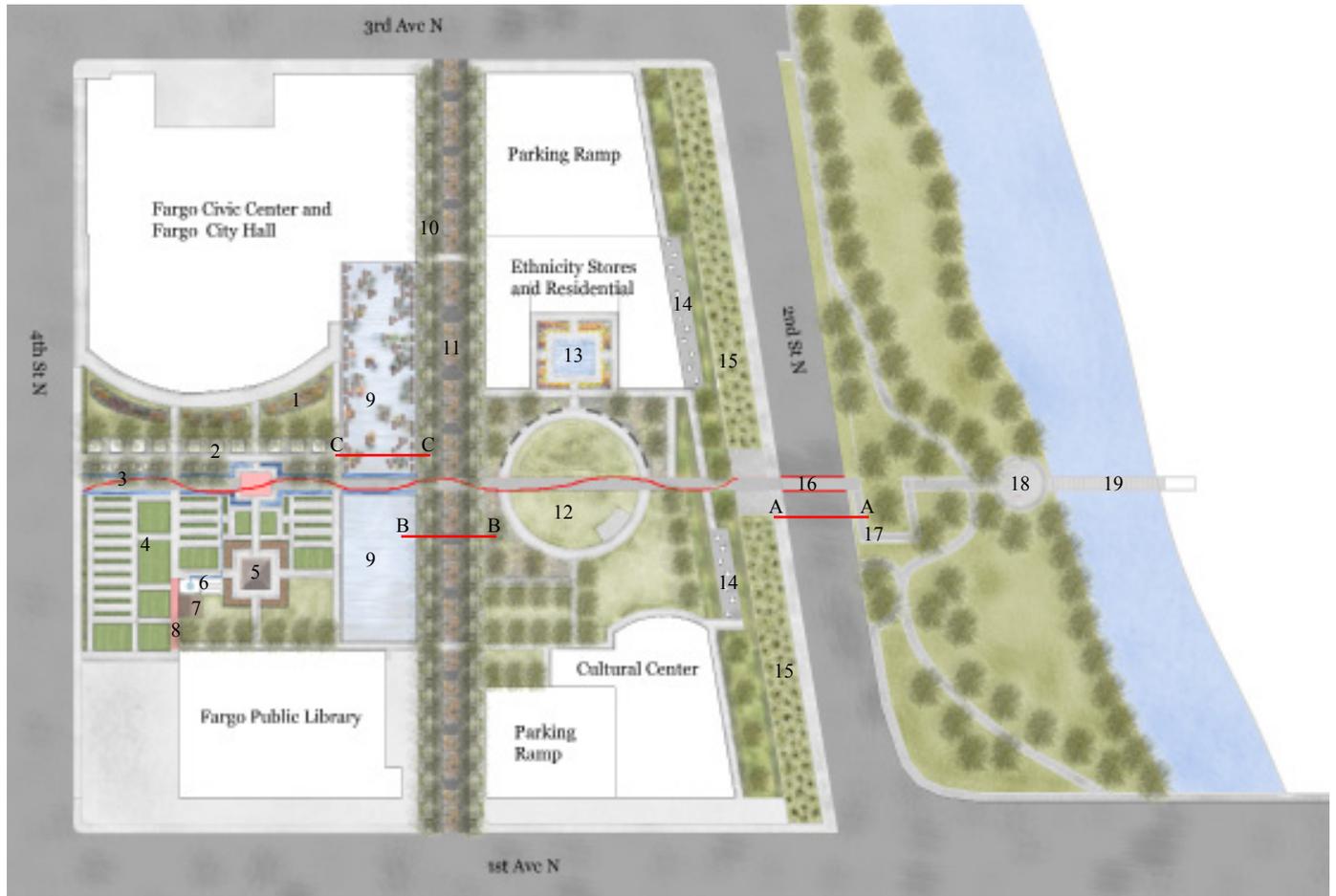
*Image 43*

*In the spring the water of the Red River rises due to the melting of the snow and rain causing a flood in Fargo. This can be considered a minor disaster depending on the amount of rain and snow the region receives during that year. According to the record, the Red River in Fargo has reached up to 40.78 feet in March of 2009 which is about 22 feet above normal flood stage. Since downtown Fargo is located near the river, some areas will be affected by flood.*



# Design Solutions

## Master Plan



### Legends

- |    |   |                          |    |   |                                |
|----|---|--------------------------|----|---|--------------------------------|
| 1  | - | Rain Garden              | 11 | - | Bioswale System                |
| 2  | - | Outdoor Food Vendors     | 12 | - | Amphitheater                   |
| 3  | - | Steel Panel Installation | 13 | - | Public Plaza                   |
| 4  | - | Community Garden         | 14 | - | Sitting Area                   |
| 5  | - | Outdoor Class Room       | 15 | - | Green Turf Berms               |
| 6  | - | Water Collection System  | 16 | - | Pedestrian Crossing Bridge     |
| 7  | - | Garden Tool Shed         | 17 | - | Stair Ramp                     |
| 8  | - | Trellis                  | 18 | - | Water Front Flat Form          |
| 9  | - | Retention Pond           | 19 | - | Fargo-Moorhead Crossing Bridge |
| 10 | - | Farmers Market           |    |   |                                |



# Design Solutions

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## Detail Plan

### Outdoor Food Vendors



Providing outdoor food vendors to increases attention to public health concerns.

### Amphitheater



To accomodate a space for entertainment and leisure activities for people.

### Ethnic Stores



Incorporate more ethnic stores to attract more ethnicities to the site.

### Farmers Market



To encourage social interaction amongst people within a community and also help bring life into the city.



# Design Solutions

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## Detail Plan

### Community Garden

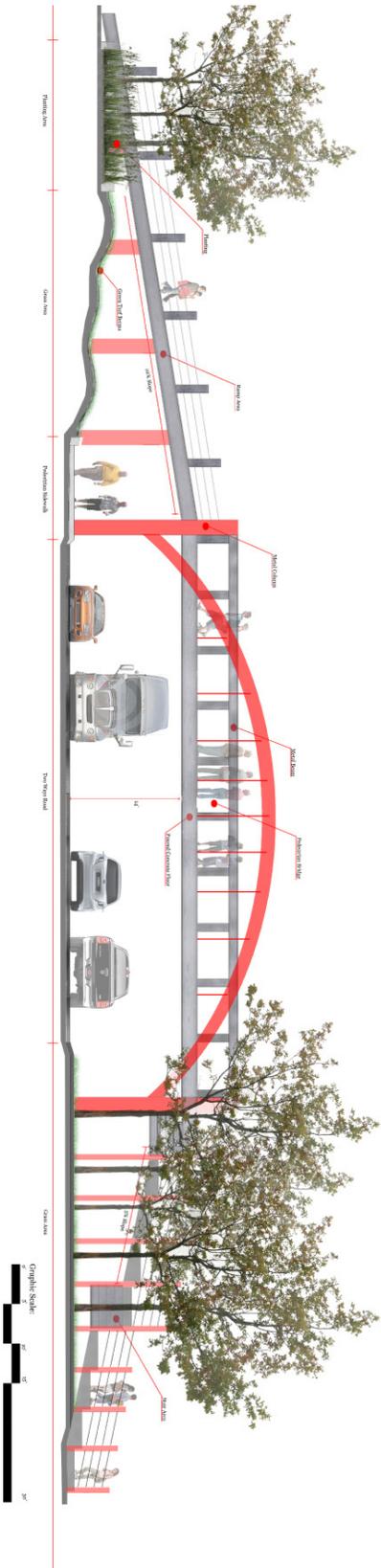


Bringing people from various cultures together to increase a sense of community ownership and stewardship



# Design Solutions

section AA

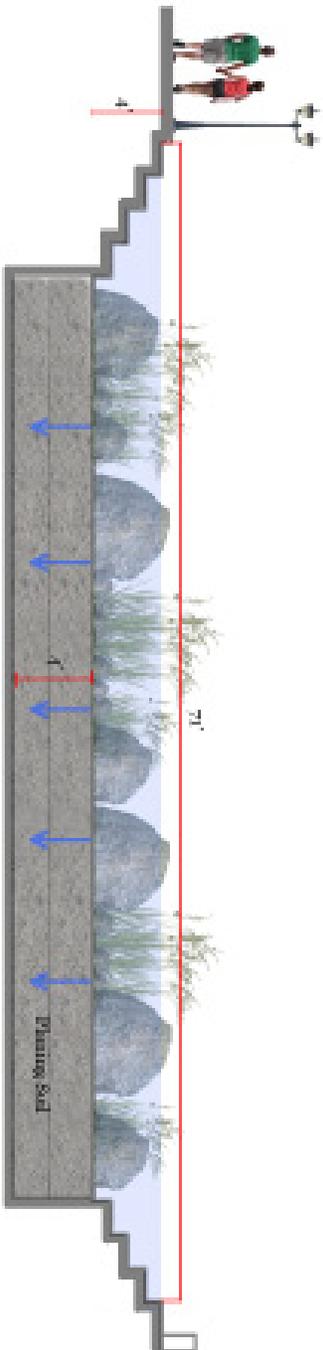


section BB



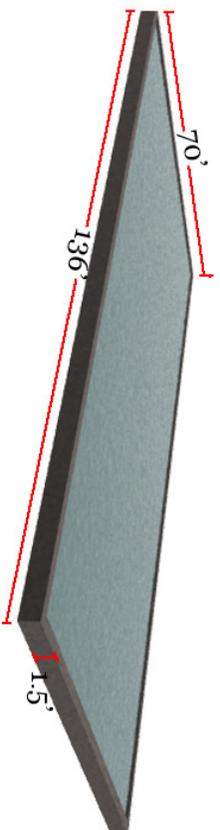
# Design Solutions

section CC



Retention Pond 1 can hold 104,520 gallons of rain water from the Fargo Civic Center for the rain in June, which is about 2/3 of the roof.

Retention Pond



Retention Pond 2 can hold 20,000 gallons of rain water from the Fargo Public Library for the rain in June, which is about 1/3 of the roof.



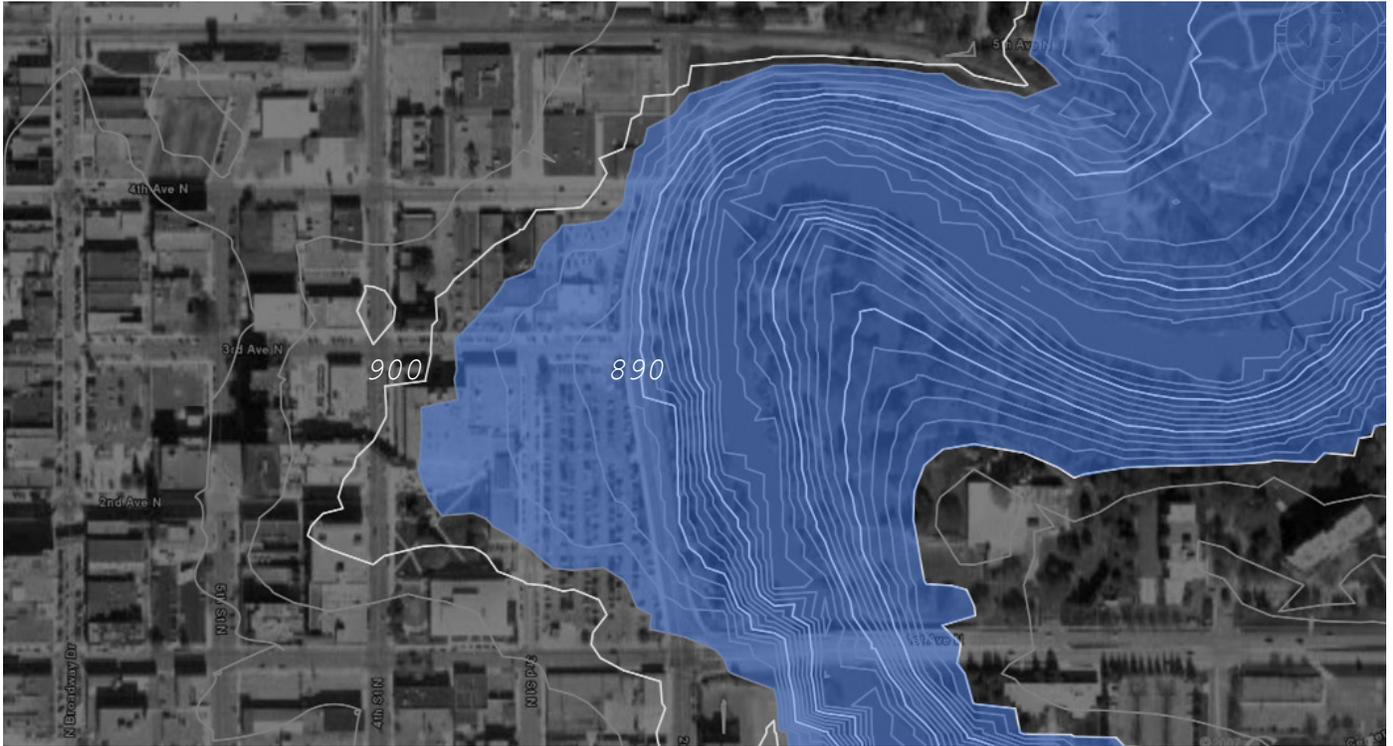
The retention pond is used as an ice rink providing winter activities.



# Design Solutions

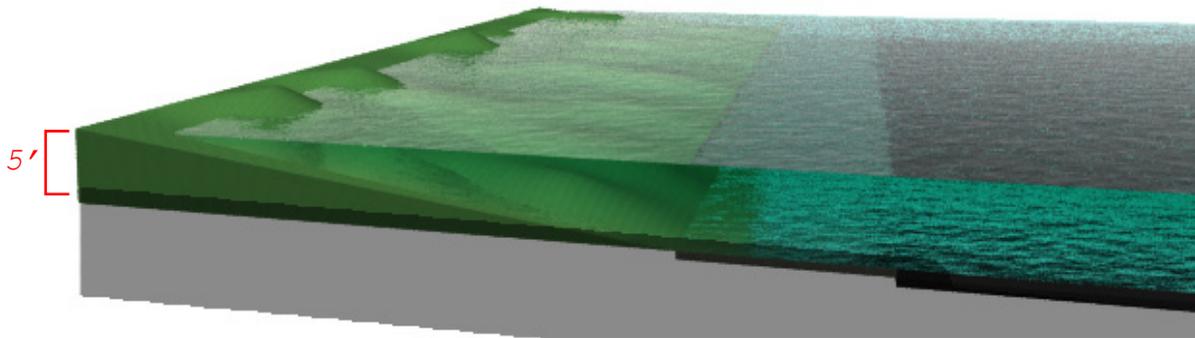
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## Area Affect By 40' Flood



The site to be developed is located near to Red River, where the flood is a major effect. In the spring the water of the Red River rises due to the melting of the snow and rain causing a flood in Fargo each year. This is considered as a minor disaster depending on the amount of water from the snow and rain the region receives during the year.

### Flood Protection



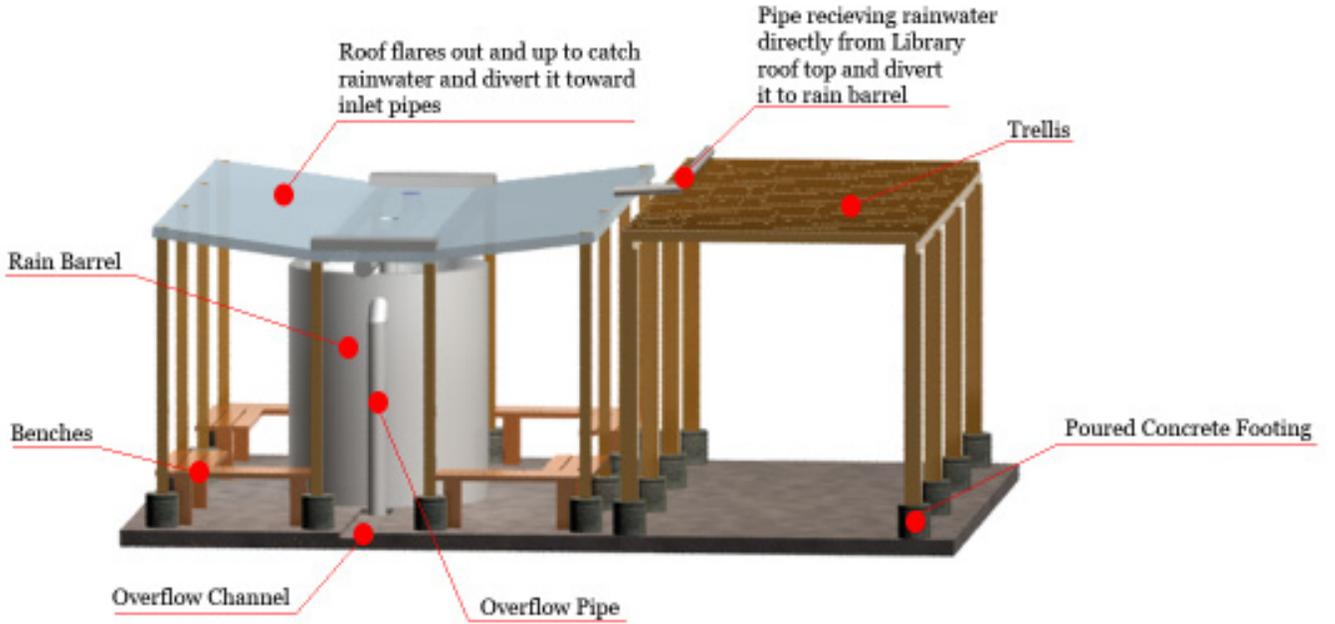
The proposed plan will change the elevation up five feet above existing conditions to prevent the area from flooding.



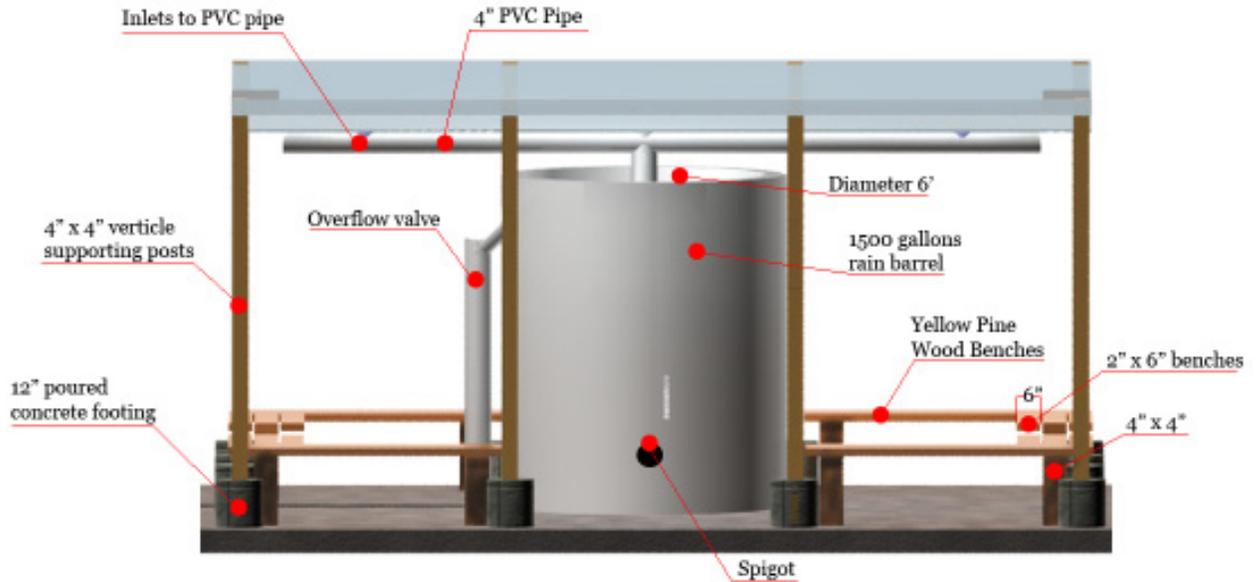
# Design Solutions

## Construction Detail

### Rain Barrel Area



### Rain Barrel Side View

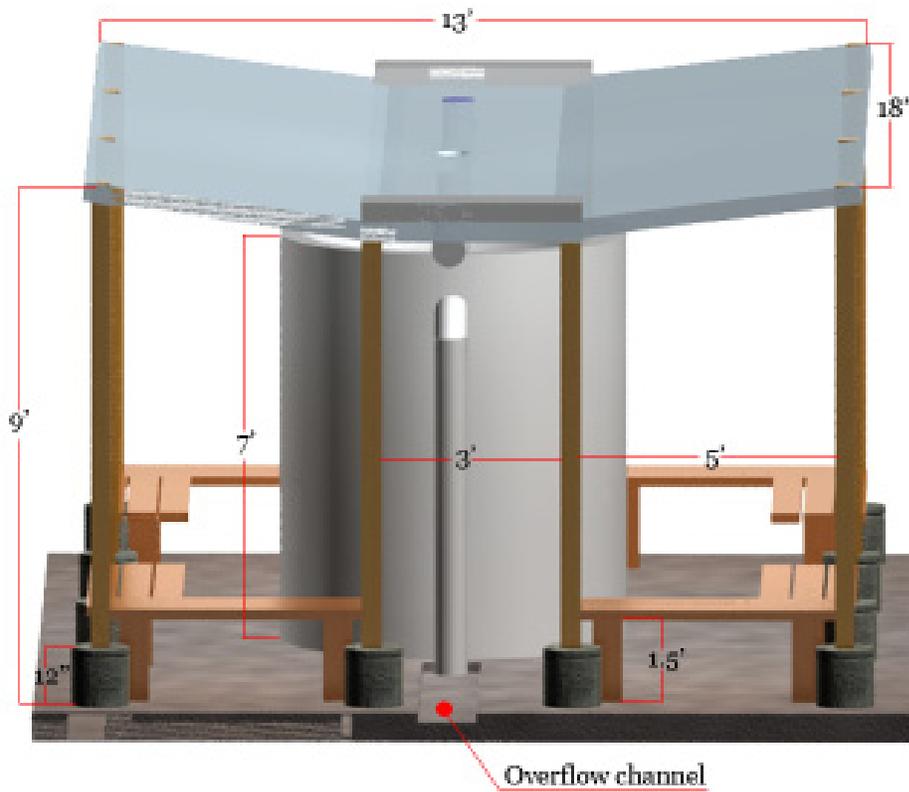


# Design Solutions

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## Construction Detail

### Rain Barrel Front View



### Trellis Top View

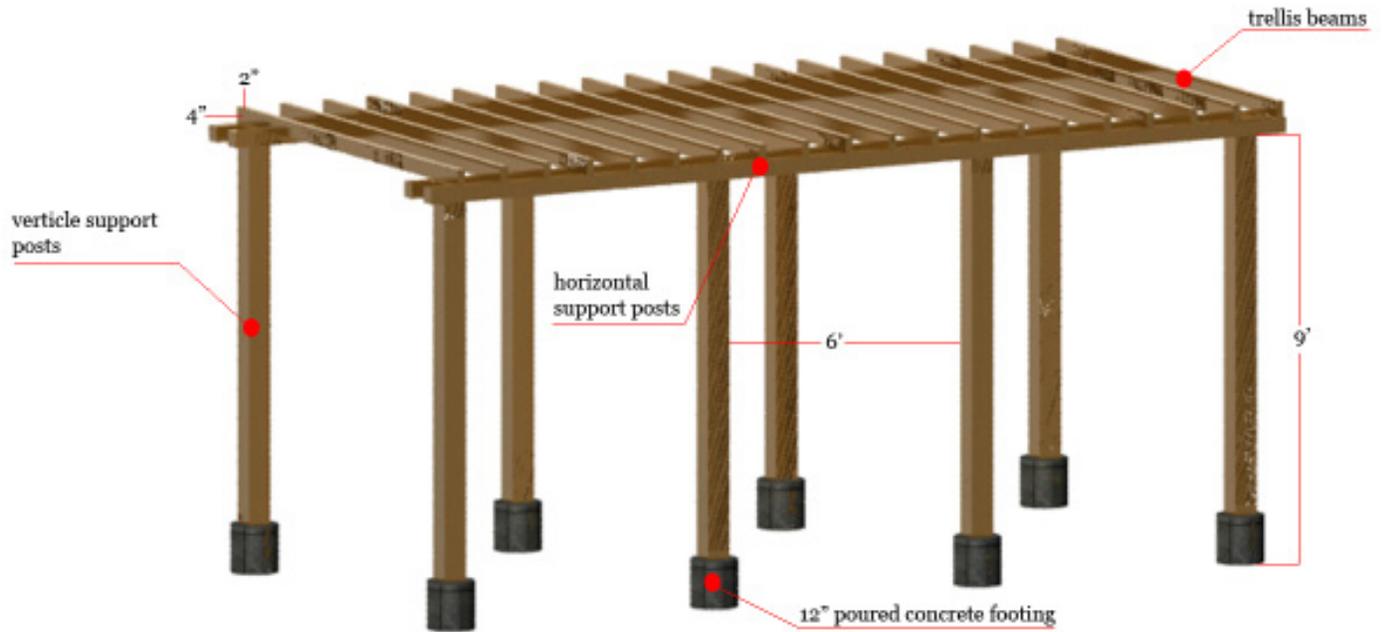


# Design Solutions

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## Construction Detail

### Trellis Side View



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Images 1, 2, 10, 18, 25, 27, 31-34, 39: Google Earth

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Images 11-13: Legendarynd. (2001). Fargo's Downtown Street Fair Kicks off Today. Retrieved October 19, 2010 from <http://legendarynd.wordpress.com/2010/07/15/fargos-downtown-street-fair-kicks-off-today/>

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Image 23: Photo taken by Jeff Blanch. (September 2, 2010). MPRNews. Retrieved October 19, 2010 from <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2010/09/02/district-farmers-market/>.

Image 24: Fiona. (June 18th, 2009). To market, to market. Retrieved October 19, 2010 from <http://minneapolis.metblogs.com/2009/06/18/to-market-to-market-2/>

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Image 31: City of Fargo. (2010). Downtown Framework Plan. Retrieved October 1, 2010. From <http://www.cityoffargo.com/CityInfo/downtown/FrameworkPlan/>

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\* Any images not listed were taken by the author.



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