



**MOUSE  
RIVER  
PLAN**

Mouse River Plan PROGRESS was developed by the Souris River Joint Board and its' partners to keep project stakeholders, constituents, and the region updated on the progress of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project (MREFPP). The MREFPP is a basin-wide endeavor focusing on flood risk reduction along the Mouse River. The estimated \$1 billion project was initiated following the devastating 2011 flood and is anticipated to be completed in 20 years.

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# PROGRESS



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# URBAN ACTIVE PROJECT PHASES

## PHASE MI-7 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The proposed MI-7 Phase of the MREFPP begins just north of the Roosevelt Park Pool and extends along the right (south) riverbank through Roosevelt Park and Zoo terminating at Burdick Expressway. The project will feature a levee section north of the pool and extending to the existing pedestrian bridge where it transitions to a floodwall. In order to accommodate the proposed improvements, several features within Roosevelt Park and Zoo will need to be modified including the Magic City Express, parking, playgrounds, restrooms, and zoo exhibits. The most notable change will be the relocation of a portion of the zoo from north of the river to reside within Roosevelt Park. The project is currently wrapping up design and construction is expected to extend over 4 years. In order to complete the project efficiently, the overall project is being broken up into several phases.

Although the construction of the levees and floodwalls are not scheduled to begin until late spring, some activities have already begun. If you have visited the park in recent days, a preconsolidation pile has been placed near the pickleball court and restrooms. At this location a sanitary sewer will pass under the proposed levee. The purpose of this pile is to pre-load the soils with a weight equal to the proposed levee so that any potential compression of the soil will occur prior to construction. This is needed to ensure that the sewer will not be damaged by the ground settling after the levee is constructed.

The next phase of the proposed project is tree removal from within Roosevelt Park, not within Roosevelt Zoo, and is expected to start in February 2024. In order to accommodate the proposed flood control features, park modifications and zoo relocation, many of the existing trees will need to be removed. This work will take place over the winter months and be completed by the end of April. It is necessary to remove the trees in the winter months to avoid any impact on endangered migratory species.

As the project moves into full construction this summer, access to the park will be impacted, however, the intention is to keep portions of the Roosevelt Park open throughout construction. The pool will remain open for the duration of the construction project as will the pickleball courts. Access to these two amenities will be from Central Avenue with traffic being coordinated with Phase MI-6 of the MREFPP. Portions of the pool parking lot and the parking lot south of the pickleball courts will remain open to the public. The zoo will also remain open to the public over the duration of the project; however, portions will need to be closed at certain times as construction progresses. In the 2024 summer, there will be no proposed impacts to Roosevelt Zoo except for one zoo specific project being completed by the RPZ.

In order to keep projects on schedule there are several milestones working concurrently and in specific order. The proposed levee section extending from north of Roosevelt pool to the existing pedestrian bridge and the floodwall section from the pedestrian



bridge to the south side of Roosevelt Park are expected to be completed in 2024. In addition to the flood control features, the Magic City Express maintenance building and the pickleball restrooms will be removed and reconstructed. The existing playgrounds and railroad will be removed, and several municipal utilities will be relocated. As the project moves into the fall, the first impact to the zoo will occur with the placement of a preconsolidation pile near Burdick Expressway.

In 2025, the floodwall will be extended through the Zoo closing off access to the North American exhibit located north of the river. Within Roosevelt Park, roadways will be reconstructed along with the playgrounds, picnic shelters, and the Magic City Express Railroad. Utilities will be placed within Roosevelt Park to accommodate the zoo relocation and some new zoo exhibits are expected to begin construction.

In 2026, the construction of the flood control features will be completed, and restoration activities will be underway. In the same year construction will continue on the zoo exhibits being relocated to the new area within Roosevelt Park, they include otters, birds of prey, goats and sheep, bison, wolves, and North American cats. It is anticipated that all work within the zoo will be completed in 2027.

# URBAN ACTIVE PROJECT PHASES

## PHASE MI-5 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



The Phase MI-5 NE Tieback Levee phase of the project begins near 3rd Street NE at the eastern end of Phase MI-1. It runs east along the north property line of BNSF Railway's existing yard before tying into high ground east of 13th Street NE.

The project features of this system include concrete floodwalls, earthen levees, arterial roadway changes, a stormwater pump station, and a dry stormwater pond. The concrete floodwalls will be a similar height to the Phase MI-1 floodwalls, extending approximately thirteen feet above the finished grade. Areas south of BNSF Railway's existing yard are slated for seeding after removing roadways and transforming them into a natural green space.



Construction on Phase MI-5 Northeast Tieback Levee started in the summer of 2022 with Wagner Construction as the General Contractor. Work completed during the fall of 2023 through January of 2024 includes finishing municipal utility relocations along Railway Avenue, excavating nearly all floodwall footings, building elements for the stormwater pump station, and completion of nearly 70% of the concrete floodwall stem. The wet, heavy snow received in Minot in early October slowed down progress on site for a few weeks. Still, the eventual melt and favorable winter temperatures have allowed the Contractor to progress significantly on the project. Construction of utilities, roadways, and floodwalls is anticipated to be completed by the end of fall 2024, and the project's final completion will occur by summer 2025.

Railway Avenue will remain closed to traffic from 4th Street NE to 27th Street NE through the winter months while traffic continues to be detoured south to Burdick Expressway. Permanent paving will occur in the summer/fall of 2024, and upon completion, Railway Avenue will be open to traffic.

When completed, the MI-5 phase will integrate with the first four phases of the Minot Region Enhanced Flood Protection Project (MREFPP). This integration aims to exempt approximately 60% of Minot residents from the proposed FEMA floodplain, offering long-term protection against events like the 2011 flood. All ongoing and upcoming flood protection projects are designed to match the 2011 flood levels, with an additional three feet of freeboard for increased safety.

## PHASE MI-6 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Phase MI-6 spans from Main Street North in the Minot downtown area and continues east along the railroad tracks and river past 8th Street SE. The phase ultimately ends in Roosevelt Park, which will tie into Phase MI-7, a recently completed design with construction anticipated to begin this year. The project features of this phase include

concrete floodwalls, earthen levees, roadway changes, utilities, a gatewell, and a stormwater pump station with gatewell. Some concrete floodwalls will be similar in height, pattern, and color to the Phase MI-1 floodwalls, extending an average of 13 feet above the finished grade. The portion along Central Avenue will still be similar in height but will be a different pattern and color to tie into the pump station and park features. Earthen levees will be seeded and become a natural green space when completed.

When completed and connected to the other phases of Milestone 2 of the MREFPP, the MI-6 phase will help remove downtown Minot from the proposed FEMA floodplain and, most importantly, provide long-term flood protection to the record flood of 2011. All the enhanced flood protection projects currently under construction and those under design provide a level of protection equal to the 2011 flood, plus three feet of freeboard.

This phase will be moving into construction this year and is anticipated to be completed at the end of 2026.

## PHASE MI-1 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Phase MI-1 4th Avenue NE has been working through a few remaining punch list and warranty items prior to closing out the contract with Park Construction. We anticipate that all work will be completed by June 2024.

# RURAL REPORT

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*Congratulations!*  
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## Burlington Celebrates Project Completion

There was a monumental event this fall for the City of Burlington and the whole Souris River Basin. The day Burlington has waited for when the community could rest easier knowing flood protection was in place.

When the Souris River Joint Board was created the mission has always been finding solutions to assist in protecting residents of the Mouse River Basin from another 2011 type flood event from ever being realized again. The mission is still the same and we will continue to work until all communities in the region are safe.

We are incredibly proud of reaching a huge milestone and delivering on that promise. A community celebration and project ribbon cutting was held in the middle of Burlington Recreation Complex, which was one of the phases where levees were placed to protect the city. It was a beautiful evening under the canopy of trees in a space that looked very different once flood water subsided. The City of Burlington is the first municipality in the Mouse River Basin to have complete flood protection.

Dave Ashley, Souris River Joint Board Chairman, talked about the fortitude of Burlington and how they moved quickly and with intention to make sure the community was always working toward the end goal. And that goal has now been realized, and it came with a lot of partnership. The State Water Commission, other federal and state stakeholders, engineers, contractors, utilities, city staff, and others made this five year and \$40 million dollar project a reality. This fight and project moves forward as there is more to do, but Tuesday, September 19th was quite simply - a good day!



## Construction Updates

### SAWYER, ND

This project has met its largest milestone and construction activities are now complete at this site. To celebrate the completion of our first rural bridge project in the Souris River basin, there was a ribbon cutting at the bridge on July 10, 2023, to officially open the bridge. Present at the ribbon cutting were Chairman Ashley and Directors Jonasson and Klein of the Souris River Joint Board, several local Velva residents, representatives of the ND Department of Water Resources, Minot Chamber EDC Ambassadors, the design team (HDR Engineering) and the bridge contractor (Swingen Construction).



### MOUSE RIVER PARK, ND

This project was advertised for bidding on three separate occasions: December 2022, October 2023, and January 2024. There are a variety of reasons for this bid to have been advertised for bidding on multiple occasions; remoteness of the construction site, the large number of bridge projects being advertised for bid in ND, and the limited number of bridge contractors, as a result the project received no bids for any of the opportunities. Discussions with the SRJB are ongoing on how to obtain a bid and have a company under contract to construct this bridge. All permitting documents have all been approved.

### VELVA, ND

The design and coordination between NDDOT, City of Velva, and the SRJB continue on this project. Plans at 50% completion were submitted to the NDDOT for review. NDDOT provided design and plan comments to HDR Engineering. The plan and specification comments were minor, but an additional request was made by the NDDOT of an analysis of the storm water system in the project area. The Hydraulic analysis information (H&H) was submitted to the North Dakota Department of Water Resources and the review and approval of the H&H is ongoing. The USACE document for permitting is being assembled along with all environmental documentation for permitting. When the project is completed, and an initial bridge inspection takes place the NDDOT will become the owner of the bridge with responsibilities for operations and maintenance.