

# Grand Forks Park District



The Impact from the Flood of 1997 for the Grand Forks Park District was massive with over 100 acres of Park District land lost. The largest loss of park acreage was Lincoln Park, Central Park and half of Riverside Park. Additional losses included a frisbee golf course, Riverside outdoor pool, and 9 holes of golf at

Lincoln Park Golf Course. As recovering began, the Park District needed to acquire 350 + acres of land through partnering, entrepreneurial operating and park dedication from private developer processes.

During the aftermath of the flood, the Park District's Blue Line Club and the Eagles arena were used by The American Red Cross as offices, shelters and rescue centers.

The Park District received a \$ one million Federal Marshall Grant, for a period of 2 years following the flood. Our mission was to provide recreation and daycare options for the children of Grand Forks. In the summer of 1997, the Park District converted 2 tennis courts at Center Court Fitness Club into a fully qualified daycare to help the community's residents who lost in-home daycares due to the flood. The First Season Family Center was established (indoor playground and community room) to provide for daycare and a drop-in center for those living in the FEMA trailer Court that was located in the Industrial Park (west of I-29).



The Park District moved as many facilities as possible out of the flood plain and renovated and added many new features to the Park District palette. Two new splash parks were added to University Park and the renovated Elks Pool.

Lincoln Drive Park was established where Lincoln School stood prior to the flood. The old Lincoln School flagpole still stands near the new Lincoln Drive Park community room and warming house. The



large park and disc golf course lies in the location where the Lincoln Drive neighborhood once stood. Lincoln Park Golf Course was completed in 2004 with its 9-hole layout and remodeled clubhouse.

In an effort to replace the 9 holes lost at Lincoln, a 210-acre 18-hole world-class golf course was developed by the Grand Forks Park District. King's Walk Golf Course, an Arnold Palmer Signature Course, opened for play in 2002.



The Park District still operates with the same community-focused mission as it did prior to the flood. Developing new and maintaining existing facilities, along with creating recreational opportunities for families and children in the city of Grand Forks, are ways in which the park district continues to enhance lives in our community.

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