

CASS COUNTY

North Dakota

POPULAR REPORT

A Financial Summary for its Citizens



Citizens of Cass County

It is with pleasure we present Cass County's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. This report is intended to present an accessible overview of the County's financial position and policies and its commitment to providing responsive services and programs in a fiscally responsible manner.

The Cass County Auditor's Office has generated this report using information from the 2009 Cass County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR was prepared in conformance with General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and was audited by the North Dakota State Auditor's Office. The CAFR is available at the Cass County Auditor's Office or on our web site, casscountynd.gov, for the reader who wants a more detailed look at county finances including the notes to the financial statements.

This report is not intended to replace the CAFR, but instead be presented to increase the public confidence in County government through easier, more user-friendly financial reporting. Unlike the CAFR, the PAFR was not prepared in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and was not audited.

As you review this report, I invite you to share your comments, concerns, questions, and recommendations on how we may better serve the needs of the citizens of Cass County.

*Michael Montplaisir, CPA
Cass County Auditor*





On the eastern border of North Dakota lies the Red River Valley, a valley that has its origin in Glacial Lake Agassiz, an enormous ice dammed lake that developed at the end of the last ice age. As Glacial Lake Agassiz drained, it

deposited clay rich soils that are among the richest in the world, supporting wheat, barley, sugar beets and sunflowers. Encompassing 1,765 square miles in land and 3 square miles in water, **Cass County** is located in the heart of this valley.

According to the 2000 census, 123,138 people call this valley home, an increase of almost 20% since 1990; and, although agriculture is an important part of the economy, most of this increase is due to the growth in the metropolitan areas. The Fargo Cass County metro area is a thriving business area and a vital part of the economy of the county. The county seat and largest city in the county and state is Fargo, with a current population of 93,531.



National surveys have consistently ranked Cass County and Fargo as a good place to live and raise a family. The air and water are clean, the economy is active and the crime and unemployment rates are some of the lowest in the nation. This area, which includes our neighbor across the river in Minnesota, is home to two universities, a private college, business schools, a technical college and a skills and technology center providing higher education, so its citizens are well educated, with strong mid-western work ethics. Sanford Health, Essentia/Innovis

“National surveys have consistently ranked Cass County and Fargo as a good place to live and raise a family.”

Health, Veterans Administration Medical Center and numerous other clinics in Cass County provide top quality medical care. There is a symphony and the opera, the Plains Art Museum, Fargo Theater, and Bonanzaville, big name entertainment in the Fargo Dome and a thriving, ‘trendy’ downtown area, college sports teams and the Red Hawks minor league baseball team.

The taxable valuation in the county continues to increase, more than 3% in 2009. The growth in the tax base over the past five years has been over 29 percent. The unemployment rate is low at 4.2% in 2009 which is slightly higher than in 2008 but compared to the national average at 10.0% in 2009. Per capita personal income growth rate in 2009 was 7.7 percent compared to 2.9 percent nationally.

This report presents an overview of each county department. The presentation reflects the county’s governmental operations. Included in the department overview you will find discussions on significant 2009 highlights were applicable as well as department plans for the 2010 year.

Governmental operations are those primarily supported by tax dollars for services such as law enforcement, social welfare and highways and bridges. The governmental category can be further subdivided between operations and capital activities. Capital project activities are dollars spent to construct, acquire or improve major facilities of the government.

This report includes a condensed statement of net assets, condensed statements of revenues and expenditures, an overview of county functions and historical data. This report also includes financial information about the county’s component units. The component units are the four Water Resource Districts – Southeast Cass, North Cass, Maple River and Rush River; and the Cass County Vector Control District and Noxious Weed District. The financial information for the component units includes a condensed statement of net assets and condensed statements of revenues and expenditures.

Complete financial information on the individual Water Resource District can be obtained at the Water Resource Districts Office, 1201 Main Ave West, West Fargo, ND 58078. Complete financial information for the Cass County Vector Control and Noxious Weed District can be obtained at the Cass County Auditor’s Office, P.O. Box 2806, Fargo, ND 58108.



FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT

Summary

The financial position statement, known in accounting terms as the “statement of net assets”, is designed to provide a picture of the county’s financial position as of the end of the year. Primary government is made up of all departments within the Cass County Government. Component units consist of the four water resource districts (Southeast Cass, North Cass, Maple River and Rush River), Cass County Vector Control District and Noxious Weed District.

Assets

Assets are the items owned by the county that will provide a benefit in the future. Cash is comprised of cash and investments held in county treasury. Receivables are amounts owed to the county. Capital assets are property and equipment that represent the furniture, equipment, vehicles, land, buildings, roads, bridges, and infrastructure.

Liabilities

Liabilities are amounts the county owes to individuals, companies, other governments and lenders. Non-current liabilities otherwise known as long-term debt, represents the amount of debt which the county has issued and still owes. This debt does not have to be paid off in one year, but the county makes yearly payments on these amounts.

Assets over Liabilities

This amount is assets exceeding liabilities and are also known as “net assets”. Net assets increased by \$7 million and \$4 million for both the primary government and Component Units respectively over the prior year. These increases are mainly the result a one-time weather related payment of 3.5 million from the State of North Dakota that will be used for road projects in 2010.



Cass County Government Financial Position Statement

	Primary Government		Component Units	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
Financial Assets				
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$28,537,582	\$22,157,781	\$5,490,606	\$6,068,514
Receivables	3,933,301	2,814,898	638,294	179,365
Other Assets	1,134,713	1,178,062	6,563,750	7,293,612
Capital Assets	105,879,278	105,633,776	102,480,751	98,055,895
Total Financial Assets	\$139,484,873	\$131,784,517	\$115,173,399	\$111,597,386
Financial Liabilities				
Current payables	\$10,224,929	\$9,707,570	\$785,616	\$523,052
Non-current liabilities	2,739,292	2,688,138	7,568,237	7,413,970
Total Financial Liabilities	\$12,964,222	\$12,395,708	\$8,353,853	\$7,937,022
Total Financial Assets Over Financial Liabilities	\$126,520,652	\$119,388,810	\$106,819,546	\$102,737,878

EXPENDITURES

Expenditures are the amounts spent in order to provide services to citizens. The chart depicts expenditures by function as a percentage of the total expenditures of the primary government for the year ended December 31, 2009. The expenditures decreased by 3 million, mainly due to the highway department decreasing the road and bridge construction projects.

Public safety is a large county expense and includes the sheriff's department, county jail operations, states attorney's office and emergency management.

Public works is also a large county expense and is made up of the county road and bridge operations.

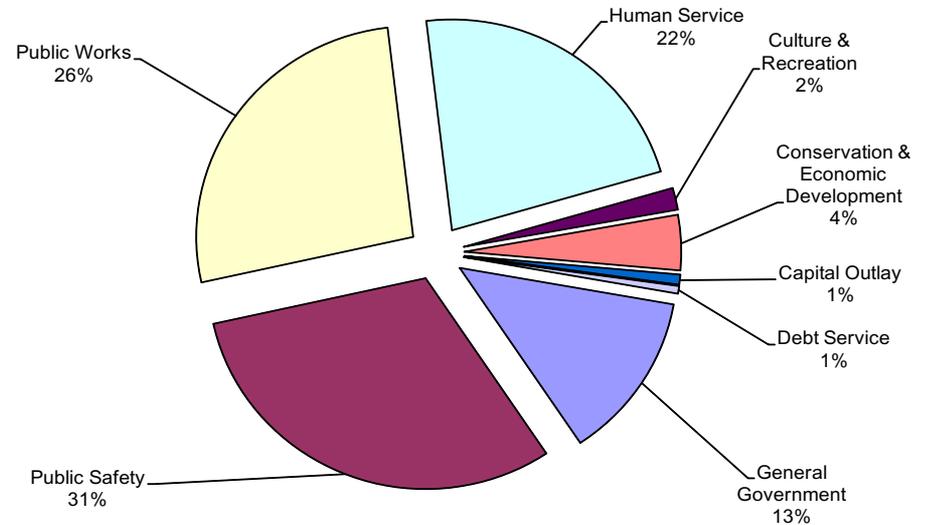
Conservation & economic development expenditures reflect the work that is done to simulate the economic development for Cass County.

Human service expenditures are combined program and administrative costs to provide assistance to the county's most vulnerable residents.

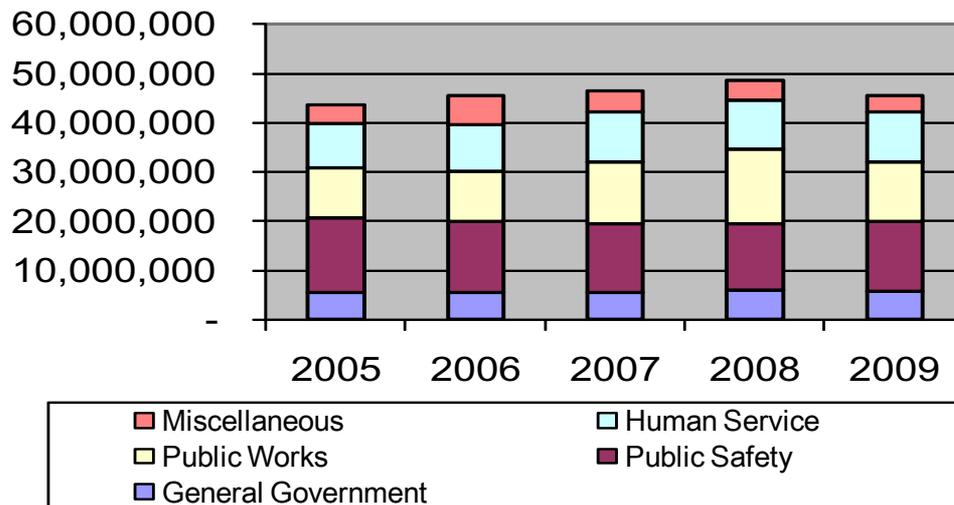
Debt service expenditures are costs of paying interest and principal on county debt.

General government includes the county commission and constitutional offices of the county auditor, county treasurer and county recorder. Also included in this category are other offices concerned with general operations of the county, such as tax equalization, information services, county administrator, and veteran's service.

**Expenditures by Function
Primary Government**

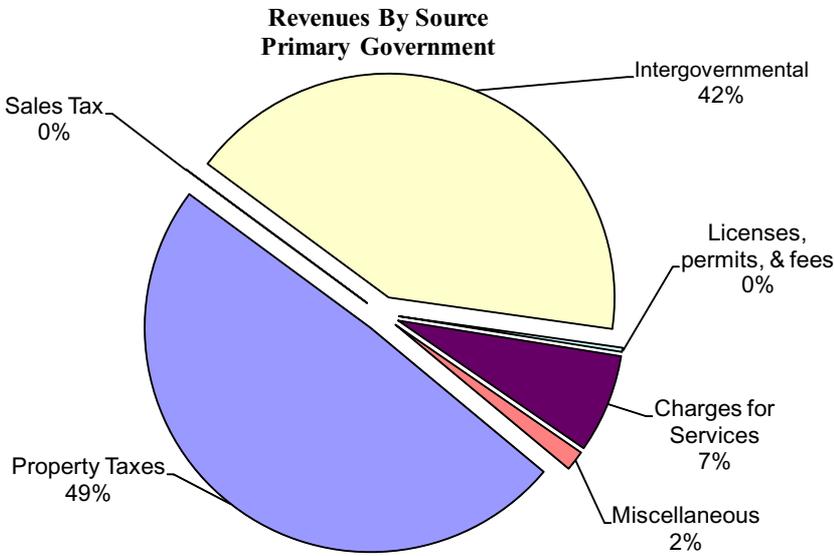


Expenditures



Expenditures

	2009	2008	Change
Primary Government			
General Government	\$5,851,200	\$6,000,740	\$(149,540)
Public Safety	14,081,210	13,401,260	679,950
Public Works	12,109,820	15,230,557	(3,120,737)
Human Service	10,197,939	10,084,922	113,017
Culture & Recreation	763,724	695,203	68,521
Conservation & Economic Development	1,932,610	1,750,958	181,652
Capital Outlay	354,473	1,175,973	(821,500)
Debt Service	266,163	260,535	5,628
Total Primary Government	\$45,557,139	\$48,600,148	\$(3,043,009)
Component Units			
Southeast Cass Water Resource	\$6,844,323	\$6,803,959	\$40,364
Maple River Water Resource	4,829,445	1,308,574	3,520,871
North Cass Water Resource	423,976	490,405	(66,429)
Rush River Water Resource	689,284	577,432	111,852
Vector Control	707,147	863,645	(156,498)
Weed Control	308,853	369,383	(60,530)
Total Component Units	\$13,803,028	\$10,413,398	\$3,389,630



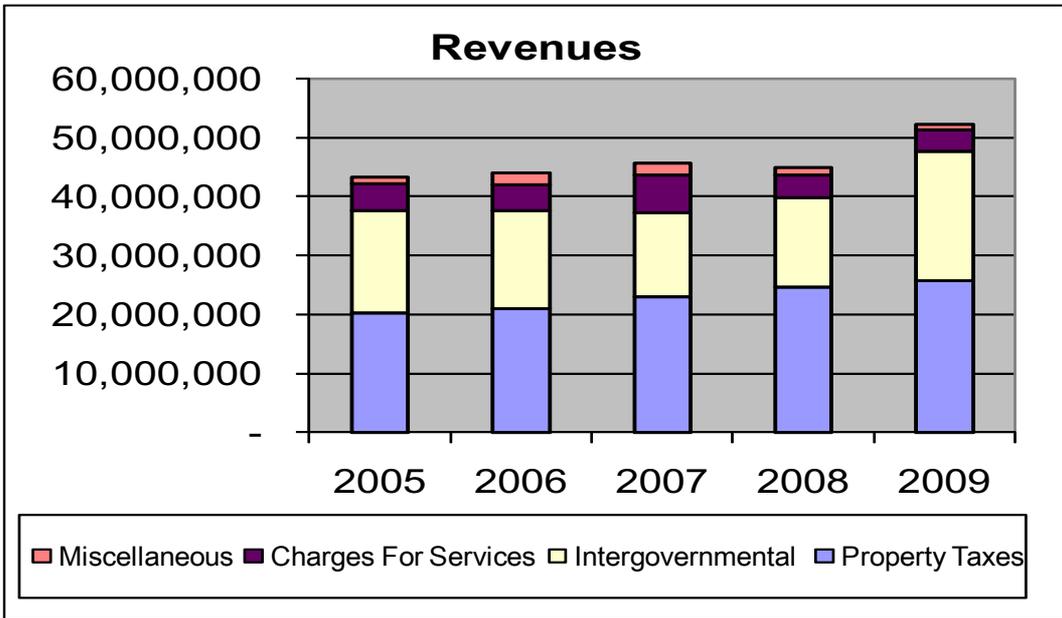
Revenues are the amounts the county receives from a plethora of sources in order to pay for the services it provides. The chart depicts revenues by source as a percentage of the total revenues of the primary government for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Property taxes continue to be one of the main sources of revenue for Cass County. The primary government's revenues increased in 2009 mainly due to an increase in property taxes as a result of increase property tax valuations.

Intergovernmental revenues are also a main source of county funding. Intergovernmental revenues are the combined resources received from grants and from the State of North Dakota. This revenue source increased in 2009 as a result of increased reimbursements for county roads and bridges damaged in the 2009 flood from the Federal Government and the State of North Dakota.

Charges for services are the revenues of various county departments and agencies for fees paid to them by the public. Some examples are fees for recording deeds and transferring property.

Licenses, permits, & fees are the revenues from selling licenses and other items.



Revenues

Primary Government	2009	2008	Change
Property Taxes	\$25,629,044	\$24,608,090	\$1,020,954
Sales Tax	894	3,443	(2,549)
Intergovernmental	21,967,151	15,101,212	6,865,939
Licenses, permits, & fees	158,502	265,336	(106,834)
Charges for Services	3,715,880	3,829,880	(114,000)
Miscellaneous	755,673	1,311,694	(556,021)
Total Primary Government	\$52,227,144	\$45,119,655	\$7,107,489

Component Units	2009	2008	Change
Southeast Cass Water Resource	\$6,093,028	\$4,780,263	\$1,312,765
Maple River Water Resource	4,209,527	1,353,347	2,856,180
North Cass Water Resource	414,805	424,484	(9,679)
Rush River Water Resource	685,123	398,077	287,046
Vector Control	768,898	872,543	(103,645)
Weed Control	358,377	447,059	(88,682)
Total Component Units	\$12,529,758	\$8,275,773	\$4,253,985

COUNTY COMMISSION

The county is governed by a five member board of commissioners who have plenary power to enact ordinances and resolutions. Among the powers granted to this body in the county's home rule charter are to: levy property taxes for the county, approve the county's annual budget, authorize bond issues, approve the payment of bills, oversee all county departments, issue alcoholic beverage licenses, supervise the electoral process of the county, manage all county property, appoint county officials who are not elected and members of certain committees and boards, and set employee salaries and benefits.

The board of county commissioners has begun construction on a west addition to the Cass County Courthouse. The project construction will run through 2011. The commission also is involved with the planning process for a metropolitan flood diversion project.

County Commission	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
County Board Operations (1)	\$ 855,493	\$ 269,916	\$ 694,872
County Wide Administrative Expenses	381,245	367,091	393,289
Public Service Agencies			
Fargo Cass Public Health	515,353	542,088	562,570
Greater FM Economic Development	375,000	400,000	435,000
Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association	145,000	145,000	145,000
Red River Valley Fair Association	114,219	109,819	100,000
Cass County Historical Society (Bonanzaville)	52,760	57,160	60,996
Other Public Service Agencies	27,000	27,000	30,500
Flood Mitigation			130,981
Total County Commission	\$ 2,466,070	\$ 1,918,074	\$ 2,553,208

(1) In 2009 expenditure includes a \$500,000 transfer to the flood fund. while the 2008 only has a 90,000 transfer to 911

Contact Information

Cass County Commission Office
Cass County Courthouse
PO Box 2806
Fargo ND 58108-2806
701-241-5609

bennettv@casscountynd.gov
sorumr@casscountynd.gov
wagners@casscountynd.gov

pawlukk@casscountynd.gov
vanyod@casscountynd.gov



CASS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
77,000 square feet



CASS COUNTY JAIL
165,000 square feet



CASS COUNTY ANNEX
55,000 square feet

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

The county administrator is responsible for making recommendations to the board of commissioners, for implementing commission policies, for participating in risk management, for managing the human resources, and the buildings and grounds departments.

The human resources department works in partnership with administrators, managers and employees to meet human resource needs in a timely, effective and professional manner. Cass County currently has approximately 400 full and part time employees.

The county administrator is working as the project manager on a west addition to the Cass County Courthouse. The county administrator has been working on legislative items, regional dispatch issues and employment matters to advance local services. The administrator also serves on numerous technical committees working on a metro flood diversion project.

County Administrator	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 1,419,120	\$ 1,483,208	\$ 1,321,613
County Administrator and Personnel	243,786	253,988	277,827
Total County Administrator	\$ 1,662,906	\$ 1,737,196	\$ 1,599,440

Contact Information

Cass County Administrator
Cass County Courthouse
PO Box 2806
Fargo ND 58108-2806
701-241-5720
admin@casscountynd.gov



The county auditor is by statute the county's chief financial officer, elections administrator, property tax administrator, and executive secretary to the board of county commissioners. The chief financial officer's role is to oversee all financial activities of the county. As the elections administrator, the auditor's office administers all state and county elections held in the county. As the property tax administrator, the auditor's office maintains the property tax system, provides guidance to township officials regarding their annual meeting obligations, computes mill levies for each taxing entity in the county, prepares property tax bills, distributes taxes collected to the various taxing entities and collects delinquent taxes. As the executive secretary to the board of county commissioners, the Auditor attests to official actions of the commission and oversees the preparation of minutes of commission meetings and other committee or appointed board meetings.

2009 Highlights

After the 2009 spring flood, the office along with the county commission, and Lake Agassiz Regional Council worked to obtain federal and state funding to buyout homes affected by the flood. The federal share of the project is 75% with the state share at 10% and the remaining share of 15% paid by the county. Thus far, the county has purchased 36 homes. The homes purchased are going to be sold at an auction for scrap or to be moved off the existing land. The office has also worked with the county highway department to obtain reimbursement for costs to repair roads and bridges that were damaged during the 2009 spring flood.

2010 Plans

The office will be busy with the following projects:

- Continue to work towards obtaining additional federal funding to possibly purchase an additional 40 homes.
- 2010 is an election year, so the office will be planning and conducting the primary election in June and the general election in November.
- The office will also be working with the building committee and the county administrator on the construction of a west addition to the Cass County Courthouse.
- The office has seen an increase in notices sent for delinquent property taxes. State law changed the delinquency period from five years to three years resulting in the increased volume of notices to be sent to property owners.

County Auditor	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
Operations (1)	\$ 701,520	\$ 555,568	\$ 595,015
Elections	36,946	437,697	197,434
Cemetery	6,583	9,822	10,471
Total County Auditor	\$ 745,049	\$ 1,003,087	\$ 802,920

(1) The 2007 Expenditures includes increased cost to upgrade accounting system and special assessment system.

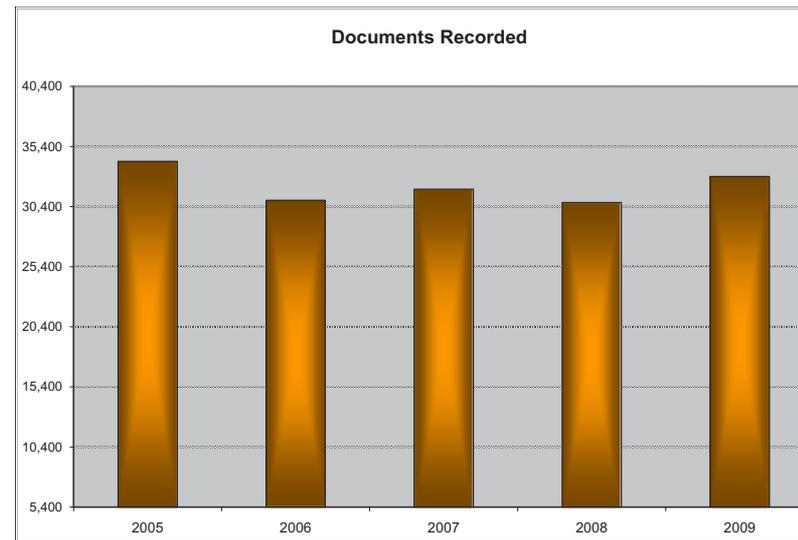
Contact Information

Cass County Auditor
 Cass County Courthouse
 PO Box 2806
 Fargo ND 58108-2806
 701-241-5600
auditor@casscountynd.gov



The county recorder's office is responsible for the recording of legal documents according to specifications of North Dakota statutes as set forth in the North Dakota Century Code. This includes maintaining and preserving an archival copy of those records for public use, filing personal property liens in a statewide central indexing system, and filing wills for safe-keeping. All records are open to the public and they encourage the public to come in and do research.

In 1999, the recorder's office began publishing images and information to the North Dakota Recorders Information Network. This network provides access to real estate records via the Internet to its subscribers. In 2009 the recorder's office digitized an additional 169,365 older documents. The office is working with Cass County Abstract and Red River Title to get these documents indexed and added to the North Dakota Information Network as they are completed.



County Recorder	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
	\$ 465,653	\$ 483,934	\$ 512,691

Contact Information

Cass County Recorder
 Cass County Courthouse
 PO Box 2806
 Fargo ND 58108-2806
 701-241-5620
recorder@casscountynd.gov

COUNTY TREASURER

The county treasurer's office serves as the central collection point for all money received by the county from property taxes, federal and state funding, county and city reimbursements, bank account interest, fines, and fees charged for services. This office reconciles the bank accounts, disburses payments to taxing entities in the county, invests funds to receive the best return, and provides information to lending agencies. In addition, they issue marriage licenses and perform wedding ceremonies.

The county treasurer also oversees the Cass County Youth Commission program. This program is a county-wide educational and leadership program for high school-aged youth. The program was developed by county government leaders to teach youth about local government, develop leadership skills and encourage youth to serve their schools and be engaged in their communities. The program was also developed for young people to have a voice in shaping the future of the communities where they live and the county.

	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
<i>County Treasurer</i>	\$ 303,096	\$ 302,412	\$ 341,630

Contact Information

Cass County Treasurer
 Cass County Courthouse
 PO Box 2806
 Fargo ND 58108-2806
 Treasurer 701-241-5611
 Marriage Licenses 701-241-5608
treasurer@casscountynd.gov

DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION

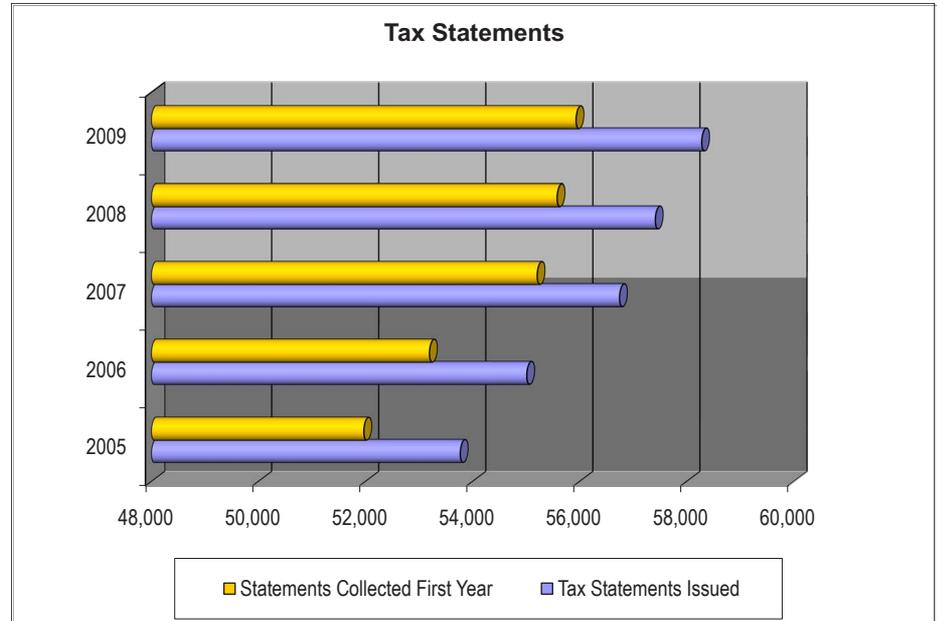
The director of equalization office oversees the property tax assessment function for Cass County by ensuring that uniform methods and procedures are used throughout the county to arrive at fair and accurate valuations of property. The department answers assessment questions for the citizens of Cass County and advises the Cass County Commission concerning valuation, taxation, and assessment issues.

In 2010 the office is working on implementing a new property tax assessment system.

	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
<i>Director of Equalization</i>	\$ 152,730	\$ 155,726	\$ 166,667

Contact Information

Director of Equalization
 (County Assessor)
 Cass County Courthouse
 PO Box 2806
 Fargo ND 58108-2806
 701-241-5616
assessor@casscountynd.gov



CASS COUNTY OFFICE OF NDSU EXTENSION

Cass County Extension Service is part of a unique partnership between the Cass County Commission, North Dakota State University Extension Service (through a state legislative appropriation) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture who cooperate to provide the core financial support for this educational entity.

The Cass County Extension office is one of 53 county field offices of the NDSU Extension Service that make up an educational network to help people improve their quality of life. Extension staff serves the people by providing research and knowledge based information in agriculture, horticulture, human development, food and nutrition, 4-H youth development, community and economic development, and leadership areas. Some samples of current educational programming by subject areas are:

- **Agriculture** - Provides information and training on crop and livestock production, value added agriculture, insect and disease management, farm business and marketing of agriculture products. During the pesticide program training producers are updated on new regulations, new control techniques and products available. This is done keeping an emphasis on safety of the applicator, food products and surrounding environment. *(Picture of applicators receiving safety equipment during a training session.)*
- **Horticulture** - Provides information on landscape horticulture including tree & shrub selection, rescuing lawns after flooding; gardening including variety selection of fruits and vegetables, insect and disease management, growth and development and harvesting. The Master Gardener Program is training for volunteers in all aspects of horticulture. It provides them with the knowledge to answer questions from novice gardeners. The Jr. Master Gardener Program teaches gardening skills to youth. Youth can garden in plots provided by the McKinley Youth Garden Project.
- **Human Development** - Parenting classes are offered throughout the year including Bright Beginnings, Active Parenting, Love & Logic, Building Strong Families, Parents Forever, Nurturing Parenting Program and Gearing Up for Kindergarten. Current offerings are marketed through a quarterly newsletter and are posted on our website. Resources are available for check-out from the Lending Library, located at the extension office.
- **Food and Nutrition** - food safety, food preservation, basic nutrition, menu planning, stretching your food dollars. To meet the needs of the resurgence of preserving your own food, a series of food preservation classes were presented to teach individuals the current recommendations to properly preserve food for a safe product.
- **4-H Youth Development Program** -reaches youth through community clubs, school enrichment and after school program efforts. Programs focus on science, engineering, *(see photo)* technology, healthy life styles, citizenship, leadership and life skill development for youth ages 5 – 18. In 2009, the program reached 4,300 youth in Cass County.



Contact Information

Cass County Extension Services
Cass County Annex
1010 2nd Avenue South, PO Box 2806
Fargo ND 58108-2806
701-241-5700
extension@casscountynd.gov

STATE'S ATTORNEY

The state's attorney's office is responsible for:

- Prosecuting all criminal matters, as well as juvenile delinquencies, child deprivations and parental terminations.
- Representing petitioners in mental health commitments.
- Providing legal services to county departments, law enforcement agencies, townships, school officials and various county boards.

The state's attorney's budget includes the cost of the county coroner whose services are contracted on an annual basis.

	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
State's Attorney	\$ 1,806,372	\$ 2,026,378	\$ 2,120,890

Contact Information

State's Attorney
Cass County Courthouse
PO Box 2806
Fargo ND 58108-2806
701-241-5640
statesattorney@casscountynd.gov

	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
County Extension	\$ 417,673	\$ 469,891	\$ 467,563



The sheriff's office provides law enforcement services to the people of Cass County. Their ultimate goal is to prevent crime and violence in an effort to safeguard the rights, lives and property of the citizens of Cass County. They focus on two distinct areas:

CASS COUNTY JAIL

It is the mission of the Cass County Jail to provide a safe and secure confinement for lawfully committed inmates or detainees in compliance with standards set forth by the North Dakota Century Code and the North Dakota Administrative Jail Rules. The primary goal of the jail is to provide for the safety of Cass County citizens by detaining lawfully committed inmates in the most efficient and cost effective manner as possible.

The Cass County Jail is the only correctional facility in Cass County and also houses inmates for Fargo and West Fargo. The jail processed a total of 7,339 inmates during 2009 with an average daily population of 171 inmates.

Contact Information

Cass County Jail
450 34th Street South
Fargo ND 58103
701-271-2900
jail@casscountynd.gov



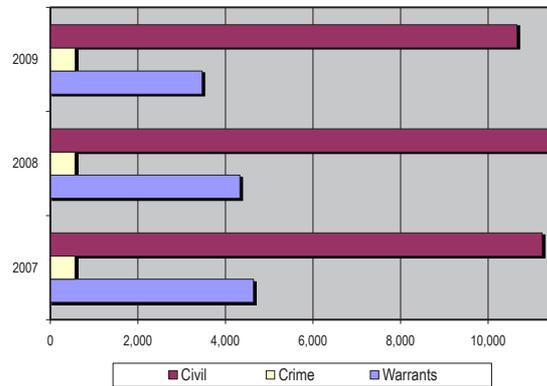
FIELD OPERATIONS

The field operations unit is the most visible unit to the public since their duties take them into the communities on a daily basis. Some of the functions that they perform are:

- Investigations of 1,202 criminal complaints which resulted in 567 offenses being charged. These offenses range from crimes against property to crimes against people, such as rape and homicides. Crime rate in Cass County is very low compared to the national average.
- Civil Process served 10,658 criminal and civil papers. Civil actions consist of civil suits, court orders, small claims, subpoenas, and executions to collect money owed.
- Deputies served 3,469 warrants from various Municipal and State District Courts.
- Patrol officers cover approximately 1,700 square miles in Cass County with deputies traveling 296,462 miles per year and handling 3,424 dispatched calls for service.
- Our court transport deputies transported 954 prisoners from one location to another within North Dakota and supervised 3,889 inmates at various court hearings.
- Community policing program where a deputy sheriff is assigned to a community to develop partnerships with the community to promote and create a safe and secure environment.
- Two narcotic officers are assigned to the Cass County Drug Task Force.
- Two school resource deputies are assigned to our rural schools, teaching informative classes to students and acting as liaisons between the school and our Sheriff's Office.
- Instruct defensive driving classes to traffic offenders and the public.
- Our volunteer reserve unit assists with special events, dances and patrol.

County Sheriff	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
Operations	\$ 3,585,318	\$ 3,919,400	\$ 4,219,703
Jail and Detention Center	6,024,957	6,365,180	6,673,929
Total County Sheriff	\$ 9,610,275	\$ 10,284,580	\$ 10,893,632

Sheriff Operations



Contact Information

Cass County Sheriff's Office
Cass County Courthouse
PO Box 488
Fargo ND 58107-0488
701-241-5800
sheriff@casscountynd.gov



The mission of the information technology (IT) department is to optimize and coordinate the use of technology to support the delivery of exceptional public services. The department is responsible for IT policy and planning for all computer, network and telecommunications related services utilized by county employees. A service desk supports daily network activity for the county and 24/7 on call support for emergencies. The geographical information system (GIS) Division develops and supports applications that display in a graphical format information on county highways, property information, district boundaries as well as mapping of vector (mosquito) and noxious weeds locations.

Information Technology	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
	\$ 923,684	\$ 913,672	\$ 878,950

Contact Information

Information Technology
Cass County Courthouse
PO Box 2806, Fargo ND 58108-2806
701-241-5723
IT@casscountynd.gov

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Cass Fargo Emergency Management provides an integrated emergency management system that prepares Cass County for a natural or a man-made emergency or disaster. Cass County has a joint powers agreement with the City of Fargo to fund and operate a joint emergency management office. This office coordinates with the North Dakota Department of Emergency Management and the North Dakota National Guard Bureau, and it provides oversight for homeland security programs. Emergency management coordinates with all townships and cities within Cass County to accomplish its mission. In addition, the department works with all metro and rural fire departments and ambulances to coordinate disaster preparation and response activities.

2009 Highlights

During 2009, the department focused on disaster recovery from the devastating spring flood season as well as participated with the state in developing regional response capabilities within four regions in North Dakota.

2010 Plans

During 2010, the department worked with other county offices and surrounding local jurisdictions to prepare for another spring flood. The emergency management department helped to coordinate an effective response effort together with our local partners, state and federal assistance. After the flood receded, Cass County Emergency Management coordinated the flood recovery effort.

Planned projects include updating hazard assessment data for Cass County, review and update of the county hazard mitigation plan, develop and provide disaster training and exercise opportunities for local emergency responders.

The emergency management department will also enhance community preparedness and awareness by assisting NDSU attain a storm ready certification, together with FirstLink, sponsor the provision of several Citizen Emergency Response Team programs at high schools within Cass County and involvement in a Cass/Clay Citizens Corp group.

	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
Emergency Management	\$ 353,651	\$ 281,942	\$ 232,499

Contact Information

Emergency Management
4630 15th Avenue North
Fargo ND 58102
701-476-4065
info@cassfargoem.org

VETERANS SERVICES

Cass County Veterans Services averages over 800 ongoing claims for VA benefits. The department assists veterans, their widows and/or family members in making application and managing the claims process with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the State of North Dakota for benefits in the following areas:

- Service Connected Disability Compensation
- Non-Service Connected Pension
- VA Medical Enrollment
- Grave, Burial Benefits, Burial Flags & Grave Markers
- Widows Pension
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
- Veterans Life Insurance
- Veterans Education Funding (GI Bill)
- Veterans Military Awards and/or Decorations
- North Dakota Veterans Aid Loan Program
- North Dakota Emergency Assistance Grant Program

	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
Veterans Service Office	\$ 199,499	\$ 216,429	\$ 201,497

Contact Information

Veterans Service Office
Cass County Courthouse
211 9th St South
PO Box 2806
Fargo ND 58108-2806
701-241-5756
vetservices@casscountynd.gov



SOCIAL SERVICES

The mission of Cass County Social Services is to provide services to individuals and families who are vulnerable to meet basic needs and to promote self-sufficiency.

The majority of the services/programs offered by the county are done in conjunction with state and federal agencies, particularly the North Dakota Department of Human Services. Some services are provided directly by county employees and others are provided through contracts. In 2009, Cass County Social Services provided services/benefits to an average of 14,000 people each month. There were 135 employees in social services in 2009.

The 2009 Cass County Social Services operating expenditures were 10.1 million dollars. This budget includes both the county share of funding for services and some state/federal programs. It does not include all financial benefits paid to/for clients through programs such as Medical Assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, and Food Stamps that are estimated at almost 80 million dollars annually for Cass County. If those costs were also included, it is estimated that the total county-based social services expenditures would be over 90 million dollars annually.

Cass County Social Services has three distinct program areas:

Economic Assistance

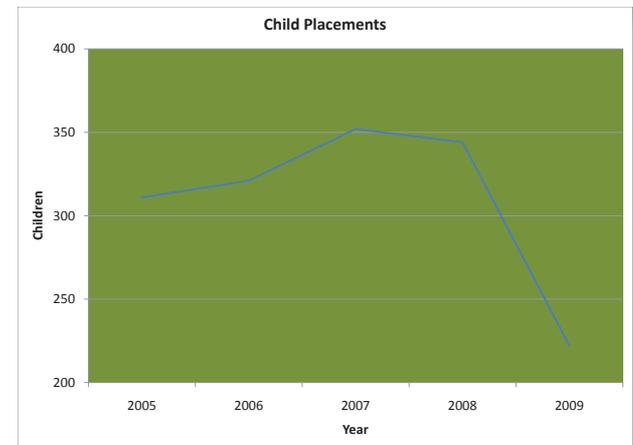
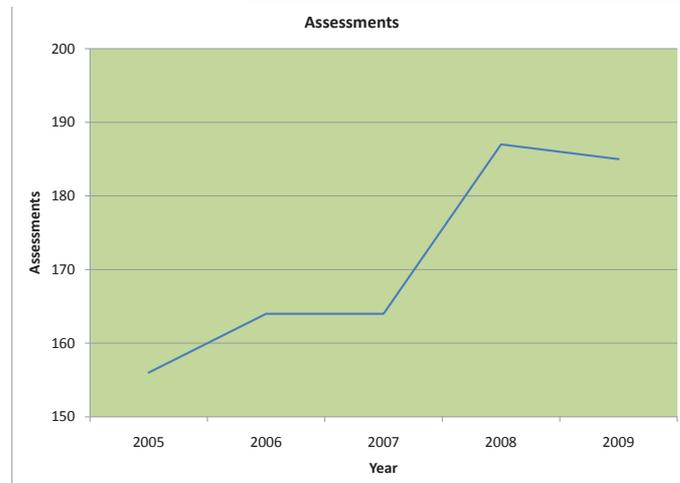
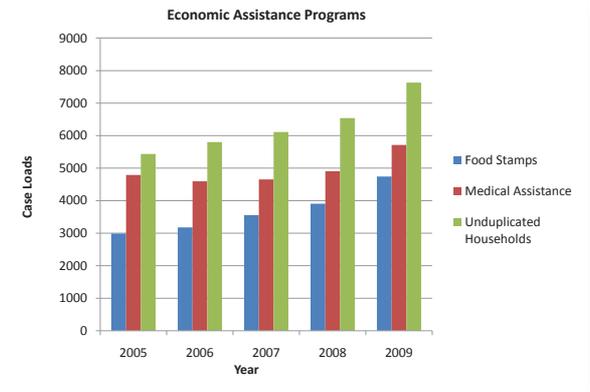
Economic assistance programs provide financial support to low income individuals and families, including elderly, disabled and working poor. Eligibility for these programs is determined at the county. Programs include Medicaid, Food Stamps, Child Care Assistance, LIHEAP, Healthy Steps.

Family Services

County social services are the primary public child welfare agency in the community. The goals of these services are to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and families. Programs include Child Protection Assessments, Foster Care, Family Support Programs such as Crisis Case management, parent aide, Child Care and Day Care Licensing.

Adult Services

Adult services provides services to adults who are frail, elderly, physically ill, disabled, and seriously mentally ill. The primary goals are to promote self-care and independent living. Programs include home and community based services – case management, adult protection and in-home services (homemaker – home health aide services)



	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
Social Services	\$ 10,214,941	\$ 10,084,922	\$ 10,197,939

Contact Information

Cass County Social Services
 Cass County Annex
 1010 2nd Avenue South
 PO Box 2986
 Fargo ND 58108-2986
 Economic Assistance
 Family Services
 Adult Services
 Administration
social@casscountynd.gov

701-241-5761
 701-241-5765
 701-241-5747
 701-241-5761

COUNTY HIGHWAY

The Cass County Highway Department is responsible for planning, design, construction and maintenance of the highways and bridges on the county highway system. The department also has responsibility for bridges on township roads. There are approximately 650 miles of county highways of which 314 miles are paved and 336 miles are gravel. There are 246 bridges greater than 20 feet in length that are the county's responsibility.

The Cass County Highway Department is funded through a combination of a 23 cent state fuel tax, state motor vehicle license fees, federal road and bridge funds, and local property tax.

2009 Highlights

The record 2009 flood required extensive emergency levee construction and resulted in a lot of damage to roads, culverts, and bridges. In addition to the flood clean-up and repair work as well as numerous small projects, the department completed the following improvement projects:

Cass 11 Concrete Overlay

This \$2 million dollar, 5 mile improvement project was the first County thin lift concrete overlay project in the State of North Dakota. The project received a gold star award from the North Dakota Ready Mix and Concrete Products Association.

Cass 4 Overlay

This was a \$1.3 million dollar, asphalt overlay project that was funded with Federal Economic Stimulus Funds.

Cass 7 Maple River Bridge Replacement

This deficient bridge over the Maple River was replaced with a large box culvert using Federal Economic Stimulus Funds.

2010 Plans

The 2010 spring started out with significant flooding for the 2nd consecutive year. While the flooding in 2010 didn't reach the record 2009 levels, it still posed major challenges and caused extensive road, culvert and bridge damage. Major proposed projects include 23 miles of asphalt overlay on segments of Cass 81, 26, and 31, 5 miles of reshaping of Cass 20, 30 miles of sealcoats, and two township bridge replacements.

Contact Information

Cass County Highway Department
1201 West Main Avenue
West Fargo ND 58078-1301
701-298-2370
highwaydepartment@casscountynd.gov

	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
County Highway			
Operations	\$ 12,548,603	\$ 15,257,242	\$ 5,891,286
2009 Flood Fund			2,646,856
2009 Flood Recovery			3,598,364
Total County Highway	\$ 12,548,603	\$ 15,257,242	\$ 12,136,506

COUNTY PARK

The county operates a campsite and recreation area on Brewer Lake which is located 40 miles northwest of Fargo in Erie Township. The lake is a popular fishing spot with a swimming beach area and improved camping spots.

	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
County Park	\$ 31,721	\$ 18,414	\$ 42,045



Contact Information

Cass County Auditor
Cass County Courthouse
PO Box 2806
Fargo ND 58108-2806
701-241-5600
brewerlake@casscountynd.gov

COUNTY PLANNING

The North Dakota Century Code grants the county commission the authority to exercise subdivision authority for those properties located outside of the incorporated limits and outside of the extraterritorial limits (ET) of any incorporated city. The county planner works in cooperation with a nine member planning commission who are appointed by the county commission. The services this department provides are subdivision and platting administration for unincorporated areas, 911 address assignments, planning assistance to local governments, geographical information system (GIS) technical assistance, floodplain administration for rural townships not participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, Phase II storm water regulation, and serving as the County 911 Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) Coordinator.

2009 Highlights

Continued to work with subdivisions on implementing the county's comprehensive plan. Continued to work with the cities and townships to work on long range plans to meet the needs of the citizens of the county.

2010 Plans

Continue the implementation of the county's comprehensive plan, subdivision ordinance and the newly developed County Highway Access Plan. The county will continue to coordinate efforts between the cities and townships to ensure all agency's long range plans are consistent and meet the desires of the citizens of the county.

	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
<i>County Planning</i>	\$ 43,833	\$ 71,754	\$ 73,262

Contact Information

Cass County Planning Department
1201 West Main Avenue
West Fargo ND 58078-1301
701-298-2375

highwaydepartment@casscountynd.gov

VECTOR CONTROL

The objectives of the Cass County Vector Control program are to control nuisance mosquitoes, reduce the potential of mosquito borne disease transmission and provide a comfortable and healthy atmosphere for community residents. The vector control's daily activities from spring through fall involve treating standing water for mosquitoes, mosquito trapping and testing, as well as community spraying and education.

The vector control district includes the cities and the rural areas within Cass County. Throughout the year field aides monitor and treat approximately 5,000 locations of standing water within the county.

Funding for the Cass County Vector Control larvicide and surveillance programs is generated through a one mill levy. One mill is the maximum amount that North Dakota vector control districts can collect according to a mill levy cap. Additional residential spraying can be requested by cities and subdivisions, and is paid for by the community that requests the application.



2009 Highlights

- Nuisance mosquito populations remained comfortable throughout the majority of the season.
- Priority was placed on identifying new breeding areas, responding to rainfall events, and spring and summer flooding.
- New management took over during the season and continued to progress on vector control's strategic goals.
- More than 37,000 inspections of standing water occurred yielding more than 6,500 larviciding.
- 37 requests for service were met.
- Vector control continued the use of environmentally friendly products while maintaining public health goals and nuisance mosquito reduction.
- Public education proceeded by attending community events and offering public speaking engagements.

2010 Plans

- Monitor and control mosquito transmitted disease in Cass County.
- Provide efficient and cost effective mosquito control by using the least toxic and inexpensive products available.
- Study expansion of priority area treatments.
- Engage outlying communities to participate in a more thorough and active larviciding campaign.

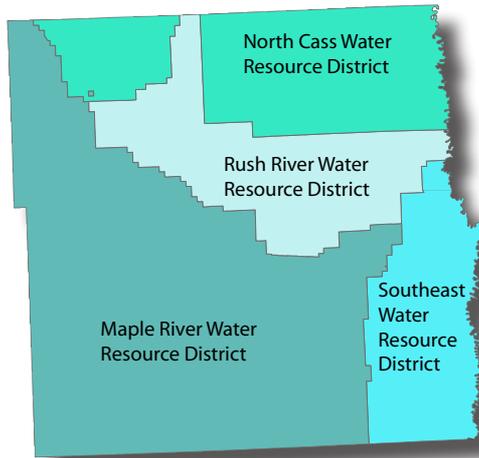
	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
<i>Vector Control</i>	\$ 870,236	\$ 863,645	\$ 707,147

Contact Information

Cass County Vector Control
1201 West Main Avenue
West Fargo ND 58078-1301
701-298-2382
pratherb@casscountynd.gov

WATER RESOURCE

There are four water resource districts in Cass County that are responsible for water management, drainage and flood control issues. The water resource districts are reported as a component unit of Cass County. Each district represents a specific geographical area and is governed by its own individual board. The following is a list of the water resource districts for Cass County: Southeast Cass, Maple River Water, North Cass, and Rush River.



In addition, all of the water resource districts are members of the: Cass County Joint Water Resource District (consists of two Managers from Southeast Cass Water Resource District and one Manager from each of the other three Water Resource Districts) Red River Joint Water Resource District

2009 Highlights

- Swan Creek Diversion reconstruction
- Drain #13 repairs and improvements
- Drain #14 repairs and improvements
- Drain #37 channel improvements
- Sheyenne River snagging and clearing
- Wild Rice River snagging and clearing

2010 Projects

- Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan feasibility study
- Drain #27 drainage and flood control improvements
- Drain #53 drainage and flood control improvements
- Sheyenne-Maple flood control projects repair
- Snagging and clearing projects
- Absaraka Dam repairs
- Study and development of various water retention sites

Water Resource Districts	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
Southeast Cass Water Resource District	\$ 5,976,126	\$ 6,803,959	\$ 6,844,323
Maple River Water Resource District	690,574	1,308,574	4,829,445
North Cass Water Resource District	276,855	490,405	423,976
Rush River Water Resource District	279,124	577,432	689,284
Total Water Resource Districts	\$ 7,222,679	\$ 9,180,370	\$ 12,787,028

Contact Information

Water Resource Districts
1201 West Main Avenue
West Fargo ND 58078-1301
701-298-2381
wrd@casscountynd.gov

SENIOR CITIZENS

The senior citizens fund is funded by a one mill levy matched by the state at .667 cents on the dollar that helps support the Fargo Senior Commission and the Rural Cass Council on Aging programs. In 2009, the county allocated \$615,000 to the Fargo Senior Commission and \$106,679 to the Rural Cass Council on Aging. This funding only covers a portion of their expenses. It is used to help pay for transportation, congregate meals, home delivered meals, outreach assistance; newsletter; health screenings; foot care; chore services; and operations and maintenance of their senior citizen centers.

	Expenditures		
	2007	2008	2009
Senior Citizens	\$ 653,182	\$ 676,789	\$ 721,679

Contact Information

Rural Cass Council on Aging
Reuben Braaten
PO Box 117
Casselton ND 58012-117
701-347-4605

Fargo Senior Commission
Brian Arett
PO Box 2217
Fargo ND 58108-2217
701-293-1440



WEED CONTROL

The objectives of the Cass County Weed Control program are to control the spread of noxious weeds. This is accomplished through education in the long-term control of noxious weeds and by using cultural, biological and chemical controls. This department inspects and controls the spread of noxious weeds on 3,528 miles of federal, state and county road right-of-ways. The department is also responsible for the enforcement of noxious weed laws on all public and private lands within the county. The weed control district includes all of Cass County with the exception of the City of Fargo.

Cass County Weed Control GPS maps the locations of noxious weed infestations and control areas. This is done to reference effectiveness of control methods. Approved control methods are appropriate herbicide application, biological agents, or cultural controls.

Please visit Cass County's website at <http://www.casscountynd.gov/departments/weed> and follow the links to see pictures of the plants that are considered to be noxious weeds.

2009 Highlights

- Liatrus for Lythrum plant exchange was conducted with the cooperation of the cities of Fargo and West Fargo.
- All state, county and township roads were sprayed and GPS mapped for noxious weeds. Many of the watershed drains were also sprayed.
- Landowner assistance program cost shared the expenses of weed control in pasture and wasteland areas for county landowners.
- Canada thistle stem mining weevil and Canada thistle gull flies were introduced as biocontrol agents in the county.

2010 Plans

- Conduct another "Liatrus for Lythrum" plant exchange.
- Increase the participation in the Landowner Assistance Program to include more landowners and acres.
- Expand GPS mapping to include weed infestation sites on private lands (with the cooperation of the landowner).
- Continue cooperation with neighboring counties in cooperative weed management programs for the control of Houndstongue and Lythrum.

Contact Information

Cass County Weed Control
1201 West Main Avenue
West Fargo ND 58078-1301
701-298-2388

wolfs@casscountynd.gov

