

Fargo seeks to stabilize riverbanks

By Jack Sullivan

The Forum

The city of Fargo wants to stabilize three stretches of riverbank along the Red River where erosion threatens roads, dikes and a city sewage treatment plant.

The worst site is in Trollwood Park in north Fargo, where Broadway and the treatment plant would be protected by a stabilized bank.

Erosion has plagued that spot for years: In 1985, Cass County moved more than 350 graves from a pauper's cemetery there to another cemetery after erosion exposed the graves.

And in September, the city closed Kandi Lane – the east-west road is Trollwood's south border – because erosion threatened it.

The other stretches of riverbank the city wants to fix are:

▶ downstream of the Broadway bridge in far north Fargo, where a levee and a drainage pump station are threatened;

▶ and Elm Street near El Zagal Golf Course, where the road and a flood levee would be in danger if the bank isn't stabilized, according to a draft environmental assessment completed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

The corps assessment found only minor, short-term effects

from the work. The agency will present a final report to the city if a public review period expires without raising additional issues.

The farthest north location is near where the city purchased four flood-damaged houses set for removal in a separate project, City Engineer Mark Bittner said.

The banks would be stabilized with rock or a combination of sand and rock. Early estimates of the work were about \$1 million per site, but bids will be sought once the projects are approved, Bittner said.

The federal government would pay 65 percent of the cost.