

IMPACT REPORT 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2023 was a year of continued growth in services and increased usage. The library's collaboration with Fargo Public Schools to allow students to utilize their student IDs as library cards was expanded to K through 12. This was an increase of over 9,900 more students. Another popular project, Read & Share, was initiated in 2023 with the goal of getting books out into the community. It provides collections of withdrawn items at partner sites such as the Downtown Engagement Center, Fargo Cass Public Health Clinic, and Broadway Square. Read and Share books are also popular at community engagement events such as the Red River Market and Boo at the Zoo. The Read and

Share book program is a wonderful way to meet our patrons where they are!

The library continued to see significant increase in circulation, library visits, and program attendance in 2023. The library had a record year for program attendance with 33,758 attendees in 2023. This is a thirty-seven percent increase over 2022. We had 401,873 library visits in 2023, which is an eleven percent increase over 2022, and represents an increase of over forty thousand more visits. Circulation numbers increased nine percent over 2022, which represents an increase of 81.686 more items circulated in 2023. It is tremendously exciting to see the Fargo community's utilization of the wide variety of library programs and services. The significant increases are a credit to library staff for their hard work and creativity.

It was also a year of challenges related to proposed legislation that impacted libraries across the state of North Dakota. House Bill 1205 and Senate Bill 2360 were an unprecedented challenge to citizens' freedom to read and local control of library policy. Through the course of the legislative session, the Fargo Public Library experienced tremendous community support. The City Commission also went on record in opposition to HB 1205 and SB 2360. I am grateful to all members of the community who offered words of support and provided testimony in opposition to the proposed legislation. It remains to be seen what the impacts will be of the legislation that was signed into law.

The library was future-focused in 2023 with the initiation and development of a new Facilities Master Plan. The plan provides a vision for ensuring the viability of the three current locations into the next decade. The plan also identifies the scope and location of a potential future fourth location. We look forward to partnering with the City to make the plan actionable.

It was a year of unique challenges, but also a very rewarding one. The Fargo community has continued to provide tremendous support for the wide range of programs and collections of the Fargo Public Library. The staff of the Fargo Public Library look forward to serving such an engaged and supportive community.

Regards,

Timothy S. Dirks, MLIS, MPA Director, Fargo Public Library

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT AMY OUREN

Libraries have been a special part of my life for as long as I can remember. I have great memories of the excitement of wandering into the kids' section as a child and being greeted by the sight of the many shelves of books. Those special memories have shaped my family's traditions, from attending Baby Rhyme Time to our regular visits for events and favorite reads.

This year, amidst the challenges of the pandemic, our library has regained its rhythm, returning to the vibrant hub the library once was. Yet we've encountered challenges to our ability to explore and access information. It's been a year of standing firm, with our library board supporting opposition of HB 1205 and SB 2360, advocating for the continued openness and inclusivity of our space.

I am immensely proud of our library and the diverse array of materials and events it offers. Not only is it about books, but it's also about enriching lives, fostering connections, and nurturing a lifelong love for learning. And as I walk through those doors, I can't help but feel gratitude for the incredible work being done within these walls.

- Amy Ouren

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	1	
	2	
OUR MISSION	3	
The Fargo Public Library	4	
provides effective and efficient library services	5	
o meet our community's ersonal, professional, and lifelong learning needs.	6	(
	7-8	
OUR VISION	9-10	
\sim	11	
ne Fargo Public Library will	12	
e a model of excellence in library services, and the	13	
primary place in the community for people of	14	
all ages to fulfill their Iformational, recreational, nd lifelong learning needs.	15	
	16	
OUR VALUES	17-18	
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- Executive Summary and Message
- Board of Directors, Mission, Vision, and Values
- Fargo Public Library Facilities Master Plan Overview
- Achievements, Innovations, and Initiatives in 2023
- 2023 Collections
- Circulation by the Numbers
- 2023 Children's Program Highlights
- 2023 Adult Program Highlights
- 2023 Teen Program Highlights
- 2023 Outreach Services Highlights
- Top Circulating Book Titles for 2023
- 2023 Community Engagement Events
- 2024 Library Budget
- Friends of the Fargo Public Library
- Community Partners

2023 FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- my Ouren, President na Reno. Vice President Hannah James Paul Jensen
- Wanda Mengelkoch

John Rodenbiker

Kristen Schipper

Arlette Preston, City Commission Liaison

Michele Anderson, Friends of the Fargo Public Library President

FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

ACHIEVEMENTS, INNOVATIONS, **AND INITIATIVES IN 2023**

It is essential that the library locations continue to be viable and meet the needs of our growing community. It is also essential to identify the scope and potential location of an additional future location to meet the needs of underserved areas of the community. With these goals in mind, the Fargo Public Library worked with JLG Architects and Library IO to develop a facilities master plan.

The plan's three phases cover the next ten-plus years. The first phase focuses on updates to the current facilities that will ensure a high level of functionality for the changing needs of library users. An important update in the first phase is the repurposing of the vacant coffee shop at the Main Library. The space will be utilized to provide a nursing space, a gender-neutral restroom, and a Library, the third phase of the plan also identifies the need laundry unit for Wiggle Room items.

The second phase identifies significant projects that will ensure the viability of our facilities as the community continues to grow. While the 2004 library facilities plan envisioned that the current three locations would serve a population of 108,000 by the year 2020, the actual population was 126,748. To meet the challenges of the continued growth in the community, phase two identifies

the expansion of the Dr. James Carlson Library. The Dr. James Carlson Library is exceptionally located and extremely popular. The expansion will provide improved staff work spaces for increased efficiency, as well as additional services and program spaces to meet the growing needs of the community.

The third phase is future-focused and will enable the library to evolve and expand its services and community profile to meet the needs of citizens as the community continues to grow. The most significant element of the plan is the analysis and identified need of an additional library location. In order to allow for improved workflow efficiencies and the reconfiguration of staff workspaces at the Main to move the Children's Department to the expanded Dr. James Carlson Library, and to move the Technical Services Department to an offsite location.

The facilities master plan provides an important roadmap to ensure that the Fargo Public Library will continue to provide the highest level of library services to the citizens of Fargo well into the future.





PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

(includes all events: Adult, Teen, and Children's events, along with in-library and community engagement events)

READ & SHARE

The Read & Share service continues to grow! Read & Share repurposes gently used books that were previously in the library's collection or were donated to the library. The Downtown Engagement Center and Great Plains Food Bank were added to the existing partnering distribution locations of Fargo Public Cass Health Clinic, and the Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program (WIC) office, and several Little Free Libraries. Read & Share books are very popular at community engagement events as well. In the past year, 3.994 Read & Share books found new readers and were distributed to the members of the community!

FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOL **STUDENT ID PROGRAM**

The Fargo Public School Student ID Program expanded in fall 2023 to include ALL Fargo Public Schools (FPS) students! Parents of FPS students in kindergarten grade 12 are able to register their child for a Fargo Public Library card during the school registration process. Instead of receiving a physical library card, the child is able to use their FPS student ID to access the public library's materials and services. Over 11,000 students were registered for library cards via fall 2023 FPS registration.

KANOPY

Added in June, Kanopy is a video streaming service that provides instant access to thousands of critically acclaimed movies, documentaries, TV series, and kid favorites. This diverse collection has something for everyone and can be streamed from any computer, television, mobile device or platform by Fargo residents with a valid Fargo Public Library card.



VISITS

Total visits to the Fargo Public Library in 2023 (all three FPL locations)



ED CLAPP STORYWALK®

Debuting in early October 2023, the permanent Ed Clapp StoryWalk is a joint effort between Ed Clapp Elementary School, the Fargo Public Library, Friends of the Fargo Public Library, and the Fargo Public Schools Development Foundation. The public is welcome to enjoy the StoryWalk after school hours, on weekends, and during school breaks.

LEGAL KIOSK

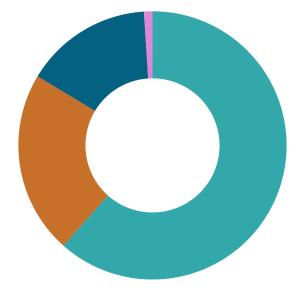
In partnership with Legal Services of North Dakota, the library installed a Legal Kiosk station as part of the Legal Kiosk Project initiative. Located at the Main Library, the kiosk is a self-help station for North Dakota legal information, is ADA accessible, and is available for use during regular library hours. This kiosk offers residents access to legal education, resources, and information on topics such as housing, custody, immigration, and public benefits. The public can also use the station to apply for civil legal aid services and to contact a legal aid provider.

2023 COLLECTIONS

CIRCULATION BY THE NUMBERS









Total Print Items Circulated (includes Adult, Children's, and Young Adult print items)



Renewals (across all formats)

108,170

Total NonPrint Items Circulated (includes Adult AV, Children's AV, and Young Adult AV, Video Games, Kits, Equipment, and Other items)

7,174

Interlibrary Loans (includes borrowed: 2,736 & loaned: 4,438)



2023 CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The 2023 summer program was a hybrid, with both online and in-person elements. Children and families were able to register and log their reading online using Beanstack. All ages could participate and readers counted days read for their logging. A paper version was also available for those who preferred that logging method.



867 CHILDREN COMPLETED THE PROGRAM (birth through age 12)

> 57,222 DAYS READ (birth through age 12)

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDING SUMMER READING CHALLENGE





PASSIVE PROGRAMMING

These were activities that Children's Services staff provided either to take home or were available outside of the physical building.

These included:



OTHER SUMMER READING CHALLENGE STATS

59%
of kids who registered completed the challenge



average number of days read per reader



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT KIDS' EVENT ATTENDANCE

- Midwest Kid Fest (Fargo Parks) 1,983
- Boo at the Zoo (Red River Zoo) **1,919**
- Kids' Day at the Red River Market 450
- Stars of PBS (MSUM Planetarium/ Prairie Public Television)
- Head Start Storytime Visits 327
- Hello Spring (Fargo Parks) 281
- Pete the Cat Night (RedHawks Baseball) 224
- Storytime Visits (Offsite) **196**
- Group Storytime and Tours 163
- Party for the Planet (Red River Zoo) 162



ED CLAPP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STORYWALK

StoryWalks[®] are a series of permanent signs designed to connect reading and learning with physical activity. A self-paced, family-friendly activity, the signs are spread out to encourage residents of all ages to read, move, and enjoy the outdoors. In 2023, in conjunction with Fargo Public Schools, the Fargo Public Library added a new, permanent StoryWalk[®] at Ed Clapp Elementary School. Support for the StoryWalk[®] comes from the Fargo Public Schools Development Foundation and the Friends of the Fargo Public Library.

The original StoryWalk[®] project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vt., and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library to promote literacy.

365 young children earned a book by reading

 $100\,$ books with an adult

2023 ADULT PROGRAM AND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

LIBRARY LEARNING GARDEN

With 128 participants helping, the Carlson Library Garden was a great success in 2023! Individuals and families shared gardening knowledge and made connections at weekly gardening sessions to water, weed, and harvest the vegetables grown. A big thank you to Growing Together Community Gardens for their assistance and guidance with the garden bed preparation and planting!

NEW FOR 2023

Community Game Night at the Northport Library

Librarians introduce one tabletop game each session to feature, and offer a variety of other games to play. Participants can bring in their own game to introduce and share also.

First Annual Puzzle Competition

Twenty teams took part in the Library's first puzzle competition. Teams were given two hours to complete a 500-piece puzzle, with awards to the top three teams!

Craft Supply Swap

New and gently used craft supply donations were accepted for two weeks prior to the swap. Library staff sorted the craft supplies in the Main Library's Community Room and 195 people attended the April swap!

Tech Help Sessions

Weekly tech help sessions were added at the Dr. James Carlson Library in March – 329 individuals were assisted at the weekly sessions held at the Main and Carlson Libraries.











Winter Reading Challenge 324 adult participants



Summer Reading Challenge 604 adult participants



One Book One Community Reading Challenge 84 adult participants

1,012 Total 2023 adult participants in reading challenges

5,974 Total Adult **Program Attendance**







2023 ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY PROGRAM HUDSON BAY BOUND **BY NATALIE WARREN**

Author Natalie Warren presented to over 300 community readers on the campus of Concordia College in mid-October. Warren's 2021 book recounts her remarkable eighty-five-day, 2,000-mile canoe journey with Ann Raiho, her college roommate, from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay. One Book One Community partnering libraries and organizations offered a number of events during the program series, exploring the themes of the book. Support for the project was provided by: the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage through the Lake Agassiz Regional Library, Friends of the Fargo Public Library, Concordia College Cultural Events, Friends of the West Fargo Public Library, Friends of the Moorhead Public Library, and Moorhead Community Education.

1. One Book One Community Author Event with Natalie Warren: 309

3. Northern Narratives + Northern Focus Reception: 97

4. Fargo History Hunt: 61

5. 1st Annual Puzzle Competition: 56

6. Spring Plant Swap: 55

2023 TEEN PROGRAM AND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

2023 OUTREACH SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

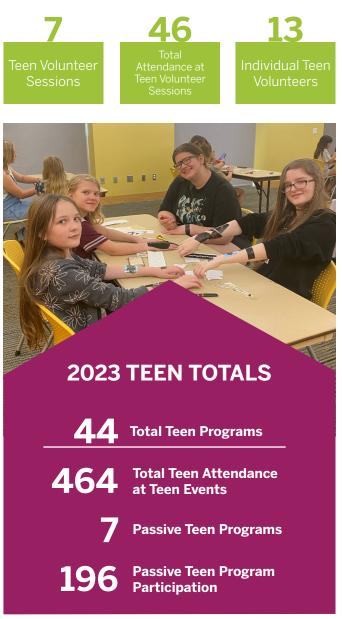
The 2023 Summer Reading Challenge continued to give area teens fun, engaging activities to participate in over the summer months. In addition to earning rewards for reading each day, teens had the opportunity to take part in weekly activities. Some of the most popular activities were the henna art party, boba tea tasting, and adopt-a-houseplant events.





TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Teens had the opportunity to earn volunteer hours by helping out with various tasks at the Main library. The teen volunteers were very helpful in completing our board game inventory and keeping the library neat during our busiest time of the year.





- 1. Crossroads Senior Living Apartments 11. Pioneer House
- 2. Ecumen Evergreens
- 3. Edgewood Vista
- 4. Eventide Senior Living Community
- 5. Fargo Elim Care Center
- 6. Good Samaritan of Fargo
- 8. Mapleview Memory Care
- 9. North Sky Senior Apartments

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In 2023 the Fargo Public Library's Outreach Services Department made **359 Lobby Stops,** served **4,672 patrons** at our **18 partner sites,** and checked out/delivered **10,782** items to patrons.

- 7. Homefield Senior Living Apartments
- 10. One Oak Place Senior Apartments

- 12. Riverview Place
- 13. St. Catherine's North (previously known as Rosewood on Broadway)
- 14. St. Catherine's South (previously known as Villa Maria)
- 15. Sunrise Senior Apartments
- 16. The Meadows on University
- 17. Touchmark at Harwood Groves
- 18. Trollwood Village Senior Apartments

TOP CIRCULATING BOOK TITLES FOR 2023

2023 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS



YOUNG ΔΟΠΙ

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins

A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas

The Summer I Turned Pretty by Jenny Han

> The Hawthorne Legacy by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

6 A Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah J. Maas

> The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

8 Five Survive by Holly Jackson

9 Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo

10 The Final Gambit by Jennifer Lynn Barnes



FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY IMPACT REPORT 2023

Participating in community engagement events allows the Library to meet community members where they are at, whether at Broadway Square, the Red River Zoo, a local park, West Acres shopping mall, or other places throughout Fargo. The Library Book Bike is often a highlight of outdoor events held during the summer months!

Library staff value these opportunities to share information about our events, collections, and services with individuals. Additionally, community engagement events provide opportunities for community members to open library accounts and to check out materials. Read & Share books and craft kits are also distributed at some events.

Community engagement events also facilitate connections and partnerships with community organizations, such as NDSU, Prairie Public Broadcasting, Fargo-Moorhead Pride, and the Fargo Public Schools, along with many, many others.



NEW FOR 2023



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Pete the Cat Night at the Redhawks > June 2

Juneteenth Celebration > June 17

Community Partner Day at The Arbors at McCormick Park > July 21

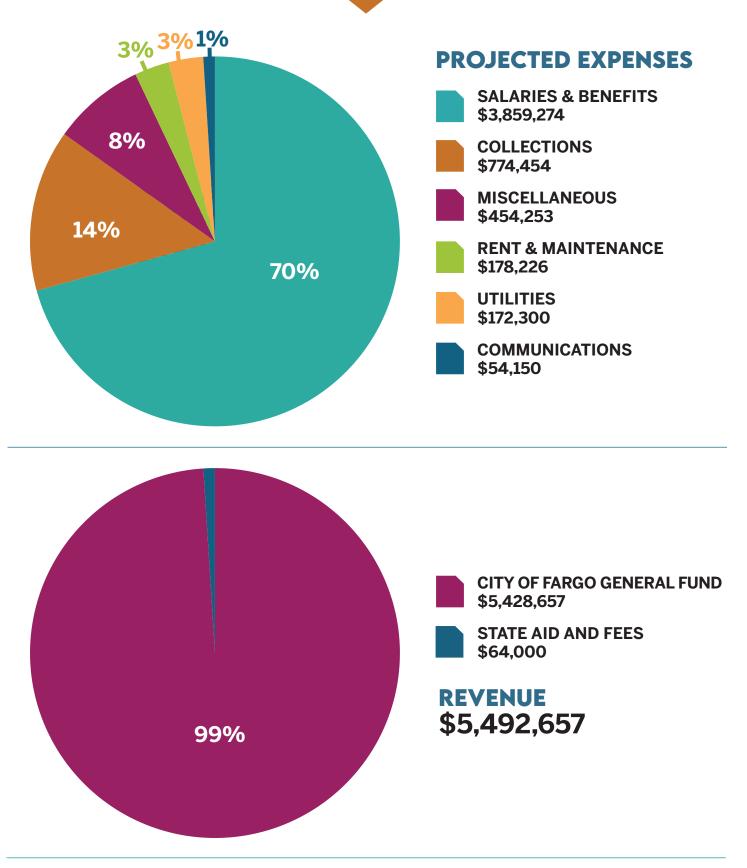
NDSU Block Party > August 24

The Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres > September 16



FISCAL YEAR 2024 PROJECTED BUDGET

FRIENDS OF THE FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Friends of the Fargo Public Library is a volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the library in a variety of ways. The Friends assist the library through fundraising activities, advocacy, and programming support so that the library can better serve the residents in our community. Fundraising activities include used book sales at all three branches. These proceeds are spent on items that improve and expand the unique services offered by the library. Over 90% of the money raised is given back to the Library.



FRIENDS Contact us! (701) 364-2665 Friends of the FPL, C/O Main Library, 101 4th St. N. Fargo, ND 58102 friendsoffargolibrary@gmail.com Friends of the Fargo Public Library PO Box 1365, Fargo, ND 58107 www.friendsfpl.org /FriendsoftheFargoPublicLibrary

Friends of the FPL 2023 Approved Donations

Friends Donations in 2023 total	\$21,48
Tuesdays For Toddlers	\$550
Red River Valley Kids Read 2023	\$700
Crafternoons	\$800
Library Volunteers Gift Cards	\$1,050
dr <mark>en's Summer Reading Challenge</mark>	\$1,392
Reading Challenge Kick Off Event	\$1,500
Tables	\$1,653
Bookpage Subscription	\$1,686
hern Narratives & Northern Focus	\$2,000
All Together Now Book Donations	\$2,850
Ed Clapp Storywalk	\$3,600
1 Book 1 Community	\$3,700





2023 PARTNERSHIPS

Alina Collective Association of "Bookmoblie" and Outreach Services (ABOS) **Audubon Great Plains Babb's Coffee House** Bank of ND - College SAVE **Bear Creek Winery** Black Coffee and Waffles **Bonanzaville/Cass County Historical Society Botanical Brothers The Bowler Broadway Square Cass County Soil Conservation District Century Theatre (Marcus) City of Fargo Clay Your Way Clues and Keys Community Options Concordia College Carl B. Ylvisaker Library Concordia College Cultural Events Concordia College Dept. of Chemistry Concordia College Dept. of Physics Crossroads Senior Living Apartments Downtown Business Association Downtown Engagement Center Drekker Brewing Company Ecumen Evergreens Ed Clapp Elementary School**

Ed Clapp Senior Center Edgewood Vista Essentia Health - All of Us Health Survey **Eventide Senior Living Community Fargo Brewing Company Fargo Cass Public Health Fargo Climbing Fargo Elim Care Center Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks Fargo Park District Fargo Public Schools Fargo Public Schools Development Foundation Fargo Women's Club** FARGODOME **FMWF Chamber of Commerce Fargo-Moorhead Area Directors** of Volunteer Services (DOVS) **Friends of the Fargo Public Library Front Street Taproom** Gallerv 4 **Gasper's School of Dance/FM Ballet Good Samaritan of Fargo Gooseberry Park Players Great Plains Food Bank Growing Together Community Gardens** Head Start/YMCA **Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County**

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FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY IMPACT REPORT 2023

Homefield Senior Living Apartments

Homeward Animal Shelter Hotel Donaldson International Water Institute KidCo Kittsona Lake Agassiz Regional Library/ **Moorhead Public Library Life Care Unites Foundation Mapleview Memory Care** Marge's Diner Master Gardners, NDSU Extension MATBUS Matt Olien The Meadows on University **Mojo Fit Studios Moorhead Community Education** MSUM Dept. of Physics and Astronomy **MSUM Livingston Lord Library MSUM Planetarium** NaNoWriMo: ND Elsewhere Chapter **ND 4-H** NDSU Dept. of Biological Sciences NDSU Dept. of Psychology -**High-Level Vision Lab** NDSU Extension **NDSU Libraries NDSU Society of Women Engineers NDSU Sociology and** Anthropology Dept. North Dakota Job Service North Dakota Library Association North Sky Apartments

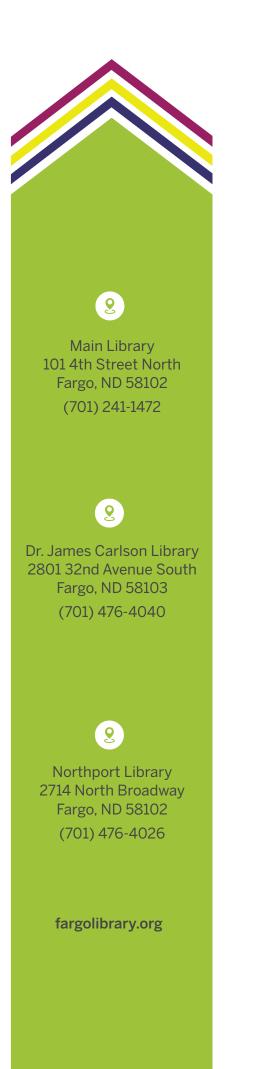
One Oak Place Senior Apartments Pet Partners of the Red River Valley Pioneer House Plains Art Museum Prairie Public Red River Modules Model Railroad Club Red River Zoo River Keepers Riverview Place Scheels Arena Skate City Sky Zone Sons of Norway/Troll Lounge St. Catherine's North St. Catherine's South **Starion Bank Sunrise North** Sushi Burrito Cafe **Thunder Road Touchmark at Harwood Groves Troll Lounge/Sons of Norway Trollwood Village Senior Apartments Twenty Below Coffee University Drive Manor Vogel Law Firm** West Acres Mall West Fargo Public Library Wild Terra **YMCA YWCA**

Zandbroz Variety













The Fargo Public Library is department of the City of Fargo.