City Snapshot

CITY OF Fargo

Winter 2013

Mayor Walaker Talks Diversion

Project overview + Q & A with Mayor Walaker

Why build a diversion?

The proposed diversion is the result of a record setting flood in 2009 which reached 40.8 feet – nearly 23 feet higher than flood level. Since 2009, we have experienced 3 of the worst 10 floods in our history.

Due to the extraordinary costs of battling floods year after year, local, state and federal leaders began working together to develop a permanent solution for flood protection.

Locally preferred plan

In 2011, after a two year study, a locally preferred plan was adopted. This plan called for a diversion around Fargo and West Fargo with levee construction through Fargo and Moorhead that would protect to a 100 year flood level. An Environmental Impact Statement was prepared and presented to the U.S. Secretary of the Army and approved. This is called the Record of Decision.

Current status of the project

A route for the diversion is in the final stages of adoption, plans for in-town levees are being undertaken and upstream ring levees are being discussed with impacted communities, residents and farmland owners. Local officials are also working with the Corps of Engineers and Congressional delegations to receive federal authorization for the project which will allow the Corps of Engineers to complete their work on this project.

This floodwall in Timberline was recently constructed as part of the City of Fargo's extensive in town flood protection effort. Read more on page 2.

Read more about the diversion:

- Q & A with Mayor Walaker p. 2
- Diversion facts p. 2
- Full page diversion map p. 3

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Q & A with Mayor Walaker

Are you satisfied with the progress of the diversion project?

Mayor Walaker: No, but a project of this magnitude will take a long time. The Grand Forks project cost less than half a billion dollars and it took 13 years to complete. The cost of the FM diversion is well over one billion dollars and it will be 36 miles long and include the purchase of 6,000 acres of land. An average Corps of Engineers project takes 15 years to complete.

Why isn't upstream storage being considered for flood protection instead of a diversion?

Mayor Walaker: We are considering it as an element of the project but it would not work alone. The Corps has studied upstream storage and the findings showed that 400,000 acre feet of storage would be needed for a 1.6 foot stage reduction in Fargo during a 100 year flood. The diversion project would provide a 12 foot stage reduction during the same flood. We will continue to analyze upstream storage but it's important to note that upstream retention would also require more dams and cost more. We've had the best minds and the best engineers under contract for the past three years looking for the best solution.

What is the City of Fargo doing to protect the community until the diversion is built?

Mayor Walaker: We began building levees after the 1997 flood and have acquired 400 homes along the river that were in harm's way. Our plan is to construct levees to 42.5 feet throughout the community in the next five years to protect us from any catastrophic flood that may occur before the diversion is built. This work is complementary to the diversion but does not replace it.

Our focus for 2013 is the construction of floodwalls from 2nd Ave. S. to 6th Ave. N. We have completed protection in the at-risk neighborhoods of Timberline, Meadow Creek, Ridgewood and North Oaks. We continue to work on Harwood Groves along the river, and the areas of Rose Creek and Oak Creek, both of which are situated along legal drains that drain into the Red River and are impacted by overland flooding.

How are residents showing support for the project?

Mayor Walaker: Cass County and Fargo residents approved a flood protection sales tax by a 60% majority and that is going to be important moving forward. We have three 20 year sales taxes that generate about $32 million each year. As far as I'm concerned, we will do everything we can to protect our communities.

What are the next steps to making the diversion a reality?

Mayor Walaker: Authorization is the next step. It could happen in 2013 but is more likely in 2014. Securing federal appropriations for this project will be extremely difficult because of the tight budget and competition for other Corps projects, however, this project ranks high in Corps criteria. We are optimistic we will receive funding once the project is authorized. We are working with the Governor and local legislators on a long-term funding plan over the next 3- 4 legislative sessions. For the most part, sales tax will cover the cost of the local share.

The Facts

*With a diversion, the maximum flood stage in town during a 100 year event will be 35 feet. During a 500 year event it will be 40 feet.

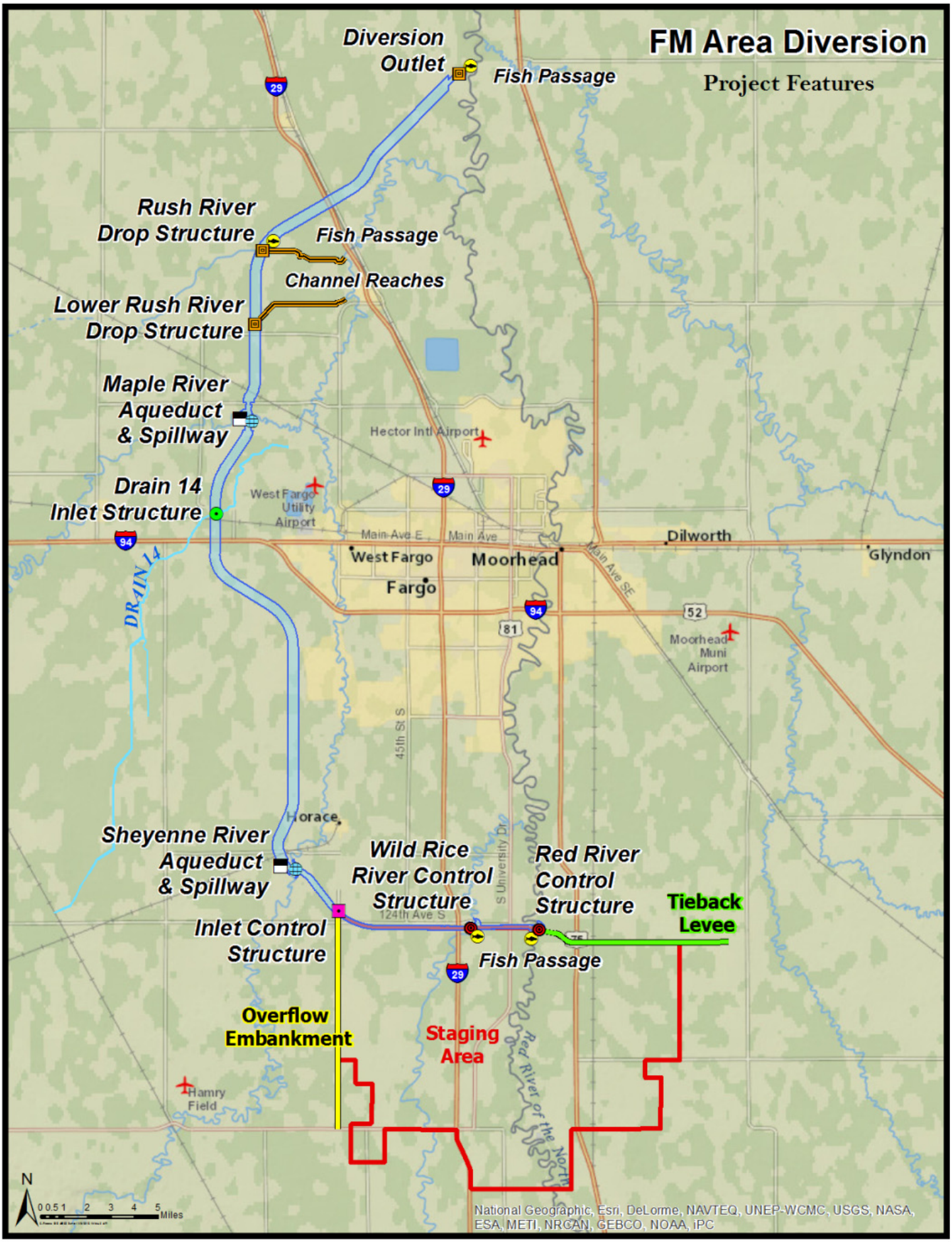
Length: 35 miles

Depth of channel: 20 – 35 feet

Width of channel: 100 – 250 feet

Cost: $1.78 billion

Staging area: Approx. 200,000 acre feet


FM Area Diversion
Project Features
Diversion Outlet
Fish Passage
Rush River Drop Structure
Fish Passage
Channel Reaches
Lower Rush River Drop Structure
Maple River Aqueduct & Spillway
Hector Intl Airport
Drain 14 Inlet Structure
West Fargo Utility Airport
Main Ave E
Main Ave
Dilworth
West Fargo
Moorhead
Glyndon
Fargo
Main Ave SE
DRAIN 14
Moorhead Muni Airport
45th St S
Horace
Sheyenne River Aqueduct & Spillway
Wild Rice River Control Structure
Red River Control Structure
S University Dr
124th Ave S
Tieback Levee
Inlet Control Structure
Fish Passage
Overflow Embankment
Staging Area
Red River of the North
Hamry Field
N
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, iPC

Staying ahead of the snow

Now that winter is here, crews at the Fargo Public Works Department are working hard to ensure equipment and staff are always ready to take action when old man winter sends us a new round of snow.
Our staff is committed to restoring the streets and sidewalks to normal winter conditions as quickly and safely as possible for the residents and traveling public of Fargo.
To help us provide the best service possible, we ask residents to remember the following while driving, especially when encountering city snow removal equipment:

❄ Remember to be extra careful on bridges and overpasses because frost occurs there first. Even if temperatures are above freezing, icy conditions may occur in shaded areas on bridge surfaces.

❄ Always allow extra time to reach your destination, slow down and use caution.

❄ Expect snow plows to make unanticipated maneuvers such as backing up or making wide turns.

❄ Ensure that our operators can see you by staying at least four car lengths behind equipment.

❄ Avoid driving through "whiteouts" caused by our plows.

❄ Never try to pass a snow plow or other snow removal equipment.

❄ Avoid getting between plows that are in formation, they create windrows that will make it difficult for your vehicle to maneuver.

Property owners

❄ Do not shovel or blow snow from sidewalks, crosswalks, driveways, or parking lots onto public streets. It is a violation of City Ordinance.

❄ Pay attention to parking restrictions and have your vehicles off the street at the posted times.

❄ Remove snow and ice from sidewalks and crosswalks adjoining your property within 24 hours after a cumulative snowfall ends.

❄ Keep the full width of your driveway approach and access to your mailbox clear of ice and snow for postal deliveries.

❄ Listen for street closures and snow related news.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Public Works at 241-1453 or via e-mail at publicworks@cityoffargo.com. For more snow removal information visit www.cityoffargo.com/PublicWorks.

From the Firehouse

With Fire Marshal Norm Scott

Light-up your holiday safely

Christmas trees, strings of lights and glowing decorations help make the holidays warm and inviting but if used improperly they could cause a fire. Electrical problems alone cause 33% of home Christmas tree fires. This year reduce your risk and ease your mind by following these holiday safety tips:

- Keep your Christmas tree well watered and fresh. Natural trees burn more easily than artificial trees but if kept moist they are less likely to catch fire. Test the needles to make sure they are elastic and not dried out and brittle.
- Verify that each string of lights carries the official Underwriter's Laboratories *UL label.
- Check light for cracks in cord insulation or socket before plugging them in. Look for places where the wires are bare or broken.
- Throw away suspect or damaged strings. Minor cracks can be temporarily repaired with electricians tape for indoor lights. Discard all damaged outdoor light strands regardless.
- Plug safe-looking strings into an electrical wall socket for 15 minutes and check for signs of melting or smoking wires.

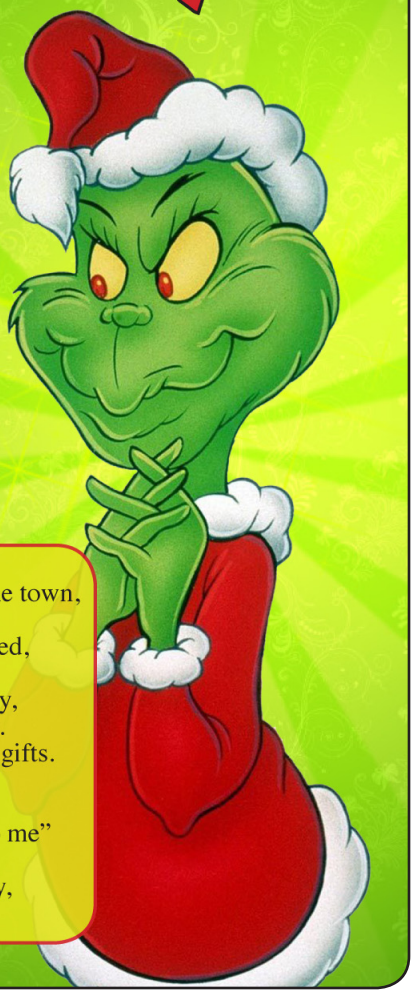
Norm Scott
Fire Marshal

Keep the Grinch Away!

Holiday Tips

- Always lock your home, garage and vehicle doors – DAY AND NIGHT.
- When possible, conceal valuables in your trunk… especially those newly purchased Christmas gifts.
- Turn on outside lights at home to deter burglars.
- Park in well lit areas and pay attention to your surroundings when out.

ALWAYS REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY IMMEDIATELY!



'Twas right before Christmas and all through the town,
the Grinchs were prowling all around.
They looked in your car through the window revealed,
a backseat of gifts that you didn't conceal.
They stole all your presents and pawned them away,
just padding their wallets for their Christmas day.
Your neighbors weren't chosen because they hid their gifts.
They locked all their doors,
as the Fargo Police reminded them of this.
You didn't listen because you said, "it can't happen to me"
now your Christmas will be spent gift free.
Please **Lock It or Lose It** so your children can say,
how happy they were on this Christmas day.

Holiday garbage collection

Christmas Day Tuesday, Dec. 25 – week of Dec. 24: Tuesday collected on Wednesday; the remainder of the week will be on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 25.

New Year's Day Tuesday, Jan. 1 – Week of Dec. 31: Tuesday collected on Wednesday; the remainder of the week will be on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1.

Christmas Tree Pickup: Week of Jan. 7, 2013

•Trees are collected on your garbage day
•Please do not deposit on snow banks
•Remove lights, plastic bags, wood and metal stands
•Tree should be 5' away from garbage cart

President's Day Monday, Feb. 18 – Week of Feb. 18: Garbage and recycling collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be open on Monday, Feb. 18.

*Please place garbage carts and recycling bins on a ground surface not on a snow bank.

New landfill hours begin December 1, 2012

Saturday hours of operation at the City of Fargo Sanitary Landfill will be 7:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Dec. 1 to March 2; on Saturday, March 9, the hours will change to 7:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Monday through Friday hours are 7:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Wiggle Room!

Learning through play

Area youngsters and their parents are invited to join us Monday, Dec. 3 for the grand opening of the Wiggle Room! Located in the Children's Department of the downtown Main Library, the Wiggle Room is designed for our youngest library users. Children from birth through age 6 and their parents or caregivers are welcome to explore this new space filled with a mix of play experiences. The Wiggle Room focuses on building early literacy skills through one of the most important ways children learn – PLAY!

From puzzles and blocks to costumes and a writing center, there is something to engage every child. The Wiggle Room is made possible through a generous donation from a community member. For more information about the Wiggle Room or other Fargo Public Library programs and services for kids, contact Children's Services at 241-1495 or visit www.fargolibrary.org/children. We hope to see you at the Wiggle Room soon!

Opening: December 3, 2012 at the downtown Main Library
Hours: Monday – Thursday and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Fridays 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Ages: Open to children ages 0 - 6 and their parents/guardians

Library cards for kids

The Fargo Public Library is in the business of building readers and what better way than to celebrate our youngest community members! Did you know that beginning at birth you can get your child a Fargo Public Library card and open the door to all of the excellent materials and services offered by your library? Starting this December, children from birth through age 7 who have never had a Fargo Public Library Card are encouraged to apply for a "My First Library Card". The unique design will make any child feel special as they proudly check out materials on their own.

South Sudan: The newest country in the world

Join us for a special presentation by Fargo native Janella Nelson as she shares her experiences living and working in South Sudan, a country which has experienced 38 years of civil war. Nelson will speak about South Sudan's history and culture along with sharing photos of this new country to help people better understand the country and its people. The event will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16 at the Main Library.

Job Seekers Lab

A job seekers lab will be offered on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5 to 8 p.m. at the downtown Main Library. Dates for the Job Seekers Lab are January 22, February 26, March 26 and April 23. Participants will be able to work on their resumes, search for jobs online and complete online job applications. A library staff member will be available to assist with basic questions. Contact the Main Library information desk for more information at 241-1492 or e-mail Lori West at lwest@cityoffargo.com.

Fargo Public Library

Happy Holidays from MATBUS

Half-fare days for the holiday shopping season!

The holidays can be a hectic time with shopping and tons of traffic, but MATBUS is here to help! MATBUS passengers can ride for half-fare prices every Saturday in December (75 cents for adults and 40 cents for senior citizens, youth and people with disabilities). You won't need to worry about parking, traffic or starting a cold car; our buses are always warm! MATBUS wants you to enjoy the holiday season without any unnecessary stress. Give one of our Dispatch Team members a call at 232-7500 or check us out online and we'll help plan your trip, www.matbus.com.

Don't get caught in the cold

Dress warm while you wait for MATBUS. During winter weather conditions, passengers are reminded to dress for the cold temperatures and high winds. Also, be aware that MATBUS vehicles may operate behind schedule due to deteriorating road conditions. In the event of adverse weather and impassable road conditions, MATBUS may elect to implement its snow detours. Snow detours for each route can be found on matbus.com. During the winter, stay tuned to KFGO (790 AM), call 232-7500 or visit www.matbus.com for information on potential service disruptions.

City of Fargo Employment

Find job openings at:
www.cityoffargo.com/employment

Protect Yourself and Loved Ones from Whooping Cough

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious respiratory disease and is known for uncontrollable, violent coughing which often makes it hard to breathe. After fits of many coughs, someone with pertussis often needs to take deep breaths which result in a "whooping" sound. Pertussis most commonly affects infants and young children and can be fatal, especially in babies less than 1 year of age.

Symptoms

- The disease usually starts with cold-like symptoms and maybe a mild cough or fever.
- After 1 to 2 weeks, severe coughing can begin.
- Unlike the common cold, pertussis can become a series of coughing fits that continues for weeks.

Infected adults can easily spread the disease to those at high-risk for complications including infants who are not vaccinated or who are too young to be fully vaccinated. They are at the greatest risk for serious complications.

In the United States, the recommended pertussis vaccine for infants and children is called DTaP. This is a combination vaccine that protects against three diseases: diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. It is recommended that all adults and teens be vaccinated with a booster, known as Tdap. Unvaccinated adults and family members, including parents, are often the ones who unknowingly spread pertussis to babies.

For more information on pertussis and vaccinations, contact your health care provider or go to www.cdc.gov/pertussis.

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Fargo Cass Public Health

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Cervical Cancer Screening Assistance

January is National Cervical Cancer Month

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cervical cancer used to be the leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States. However, in the past 40 years, the number of cases of cervical cancer and the number of deaths from cervical cancer have decreased significantly. This decline is largely the result of many women getting regular Pap tests, which can find cervical pre-cancerous cells before they turn into cancer.

Statistics from the CDC show that in 2008:

- 12,410 women in the United States were diagnosed with cervical cancer.
- 4,008 women in the United States died from cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer is the easiest gynecological cancer to prevent with regular screening tests and follow-up. When cancer is found early, most women can be cured without having a hysterectomy. The risk of developing cervical cancer increases with age, especially in women past childbearing years. Pap tests are important because a woman usually doesn't have any signs or symptoms of cervical cancer.

Women's Way, a breast and cervical cancer early detection program, may help pay for screenings for women who qualify. For more information, go to www.ndhealth.gov/womensway or call 1-800-44 WOMEN or 298-6918.