



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2017
Blake Crosby, Executive Director
blake@ndlc.org
701-223-3518

Park River named 2017 City of the Year

Park River was named 2017 City of the Year by the North Dakota League of Cities (NDLC) during the League's 2017 Annual Conference, Sept. 30, in Fargo.

Park River has accomplished many projects in the last few years to improve the quality of life for their residents. Two years ago, they reviewed their strategic plan and determined that affordable housing was a priority and set a goal to increase housing options and complete a housing rehabilitation program on substandard housing. They identified 30 housing units, primarily occupied by elderly, for rehab and working with Community Block Grant Funds, their local Job Development Authority, city Housing Authority, USDA Rural Development, and the Federal Home Loan Bank, they secured \$320,000 to rehab those homes as part of Phase I. They are now in the process of accepting bids for Phase II of the project.

Also as part of their effort to increase housing options and bring in new families, the city worked through their Economic Development Corporation and a local business co-op to develop a 22-lot housing division in 2013. Eleven lots have been purchased and to date nine new houses have been built.

The city acquired 80 acres of land which was split between the city and the park district. The city has installed electricity, water and sewer on their 40 acres and, with assistance from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, the park district installed a 20-site campground.

The city just finished a \$490,000 street improvement project and is expanding its business district on part of the acreage previously mentioned. Already, two businesses are starting construction in the new commercial and industrial district with one business scheduled to open in the next six months.

Park River, whose motto is “Town with a Heart,” is a city on the move and on the grow.

The City of the Year Award was established in 1984 to recognize North Dakota Cities for the quality, number and progressiveness of activities undertaken in the community.



Photo L to R: Chris West, NDLC Past President; Katie Andersen, NDLC President; Mayor Dan Stenvold, Park River; Patty Hensel, Park River; Ann Berg, Park River; Nancy Thompson, Park River; Blake Crosby, NDLC Executive Director

The North Dakota League of Cities provides service, advocacy, leadership, education and support to the state's 357 cities. The League's mission - Strong. Dynamic. Cities" - expresses the value of services offered by the League.