



Grand Forks Traill Water District

BOX 287
1401 7th AVENUE N.E.
THOMPSON, NORTH DAKOTA 58278
"Rural Water for a Better Rural Life"

Office: 1 Mile West of Thompson
Phone: 701-599-2963
Fax: 701-599-2056

RANDAL W. LOESLIE
System Manager
e-mail: gftwu@invisimax.com

January 21, 2008

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Legislative Committee

My name is Randal Loeslie. I am the Manager of the Grand Forks – Traill Water District from Thompson, ND; the first rural water district in the State of North Dakota.

I have been with GFTWD for 35 years. We have, over the years moved south and west as the City does expand into our original area; sometimes with compensation for taking our customers and sometimes not.

In 2000 we came to a long range plan with Grand Forks whereby we have the water service just outside their then existing flood control levees and 2-mile extraterritorial zone.

In 2006 and 2007 the City had been looking to locate a landfill in Turtle River Township. After a lot of expense the City was denied a zoning permit by the township.

After that, the push came to go to a 4-mile extraterritorial zone around the city. That way they could place a landfill within that zone without an environmental assessment.

My directors and I along with many township officers went to meetings on zoning to try to discourage the city from going out 4-miles as it added over 21,000 more acres under the cities control. It also in effect voided our 2000 water service agreement.

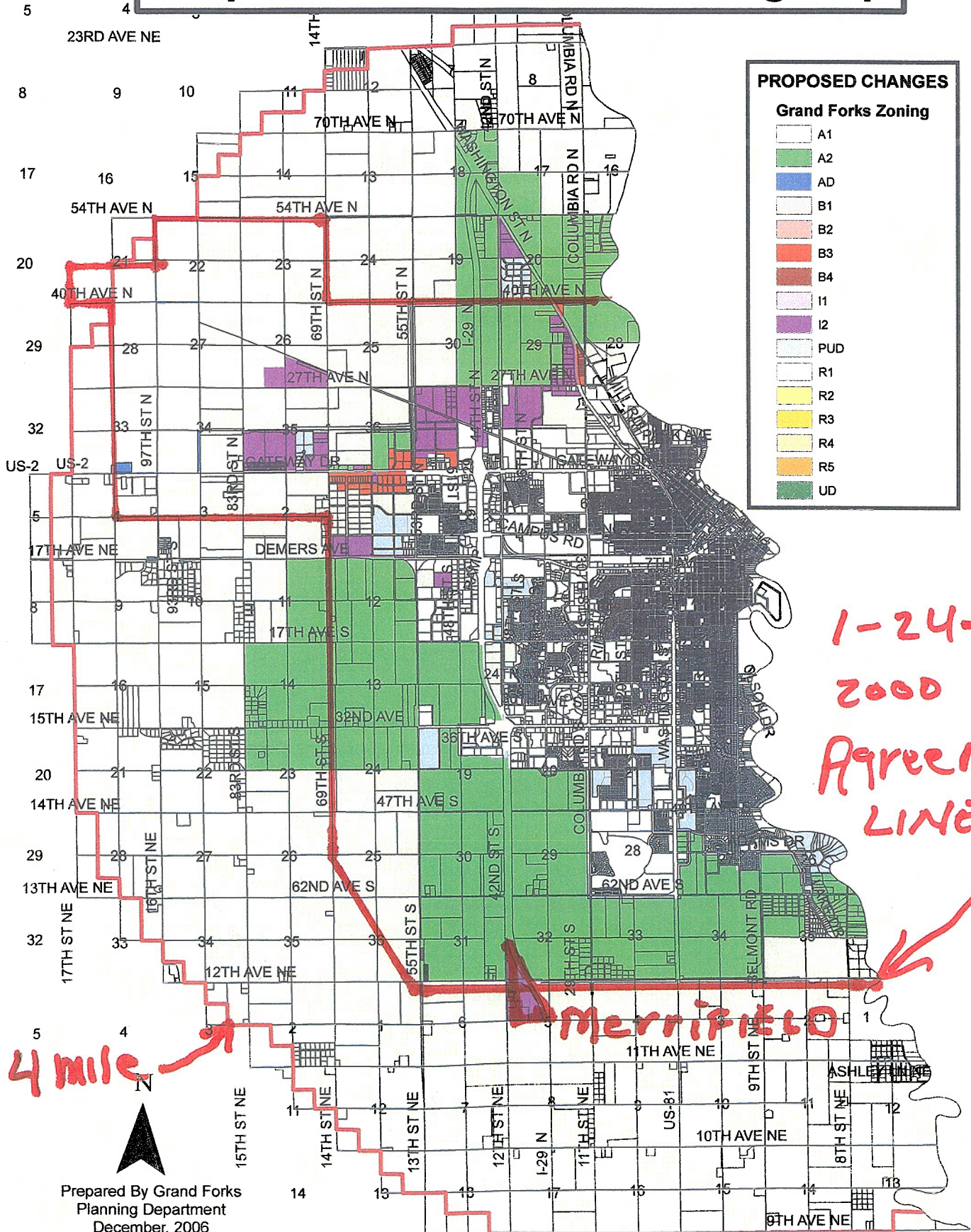
The county previously allowed one lot per 2.5 acres or approximately 60 lots per 160 acres. The cities new zoning allows only one lot per 40 acres. Four houses per 160 acres with \$2,000 per acre farm land no one could afford a lot in the country.

GFTWD has put in well over \$500,000 in infrastructure improvements south and west of the agreed to water service area. We could serve an additional 400 to 500 residents with these improvements. The city has in effect shut down any further development in the 2 - 4 mile zone.

My Board of Directors feels the action by the City of Grand Forks was an unnecessary land and control grab. It's outside their \$400,000,000 flood control project and would take centuries to get to the 4-mile zone under present growth scenarios.

Thank you for letting me testify.

Proposed Grand Forks Zoning Map



CITY GFKS;

Agassiz Water

6 F. Trail Agreed
To Service

Area 1-24-00

yellow

WATERLINES
OLD 2 mile

EXISTING
WATER
LINES
G.F.-TRAIL

