



The flood of 1997 brought great change to the structural landscape of Grand Forks.

More than 1,000 houses and nearly 500 other structures were demolished for reasons such as:

- Posing a threat to public health and safety
- Flood-damaged beyond repair
- Voluntarily bought out by the city from high-risk flood areas to avoid future damage
- To clear land for the city's new flood protection project that includes an extensive network of earthen berms and concrete floodwalls
- To reuse land for a construction of a new structure

According to the city's planning department:

- 694 dwellings were demolished (permits issued)
- 493 other structures were demolished (permits issued)
- 850 properties were purchased in voluntary buyout program (1997-1998)

In addition, 161 houses and 414 other structures were moved to other locations, mostly to clear land for the flood-protection project.

In the 10 years since the flood, there has been an explosion of new growth in Grand Forks. The majority of this growth is to replace housing stock and public buildings because of the 1997 flood. However, other construction also has occurred in the past 10 years because of the city's continued growth and prosperity.

Here's a glimpse at new construction by the numbers:

- 985 single-family dwellings
- 594 townhouses
- 1,328 multi-family units
- 213 commercial structures
- 56 public buildings

Average # of single-family units constructed per year over the past 10 years – 147

Average # of single-family units constructed per year over the past 40 years – 117

Average # of overall housing units constructed per year over the past 40 years – 309