The Near North Neighborhood is a unique and diverse area of Grand Forks. It is the area encompassed by Gateway Drive, 3rd Street North, University Avenue, and Washington Street North. The Mayor’s Urban Neighborhood Initiative (MUNI) was created in June of 2007. The Near North Neighborhood was the first designated MUNI neighborhood. MUNI encourages members of the neighborhood to create a thriving neighborhood.

St, Michael’s Hospital 813 Lewis Blvd N 47°55.940 W 097°02.411

Built in 1907, the St. Michael’s Hospital was the seventh hospital built in the state of North Dakota. The Classical Revival style building is constructed of sandstone and brick. The Sisters of St. Francis bought the building in 1953 to server the elderly and renamed it St. Anne’s
Guest Home. After the 1997 flood the building was considered for demolition. It was saved and is now apartment complex named Riverview Manor.

Simonson’s Lumberyard 820 North 3rd Street N 47°55.869 W 097°02.455

Simonson lumber company is a fourth-generation supplier of building materials. Nels and Simonson founded the lumber business in 1927 near St. Cloud, Minnesota. When the family bought the land on Third Street in 1932, the land had been used for garden plots. Families planted vegetables all along Third Street from the Northern Pacific Depot to Gateway Drive. Fire destroyed the lumberyard in 1961; the fire burned for days. The company was built the current building after the fire. Simonson’s closed this location in 2015.

Wilder Elementary 1009 North 3rd Street N 47°55.944 W 097°02.618

Wilder elementary was the city’s third school built in 1891. A fire destroyed the first building, which was replaced in 1895 by a 10 room school. The current school, built in 1964, has eight classrooms, a lunchroom, library and multipurpose room and was built at a cost of $237,767.
New York actress Minnie Maddern Fiske campaigned to improve the lives of workhorses donating more than 100 troughs across the United States in the early 1900’s. Grand Forks received the five ton granite trough in 1879. It was located downtown near the original Grand Forks County Courthouse. When cars outnumbered horses, the trough was moved to Sweet Clover Darry, near the river. Ed Bohnhoff, a Central High School coach, and radio personality, let the movement to relocate the trough to the current Gateway Drive location.
Minnesota Dairy 1601 Gateway Drive N 47°55.984 W 097°02.006

Minnesota dairy started with a single cow barn in the Riverside Park area in 1923. Drivers collected 10 gallon cans of milk from nearby farms, brought them to town to process, and bottle. Horses pulled milk carts around neighborhoods until 1957.

Trolley Barn 1010 North 5th Street N 47°55.877 W 097°02.006

Trolleys in Grand Forks were decommissioned on July 15, 1935. The city's fleet of trolley cars were housed in what is now C&R Cleaners and Laundry. C&R began its operation in 1955.
Harry Muzzy of Crookston spent $350 to build the single “Barrel” eatery here in 1945. Each barrel was made of 117 pieces of one-by-six tongue ad groove fir lumber. The outer shell was formed by 16 foot boards. Originally the barrels were stained and varnished.

The small chain of “Barrel” drive-ins was hurt by gas and sugar rationing during World War II. The family then closed its Wadena, MN, drive-in and moved the barrel from that location to the current location. After that, locals called the double barrels “The Kegs”.

The Kegs 901 North 5th Street N 47°55.808 W 097°02.638
St. Michael’s Catholic Church 524 5th Ave N 47.926411, W 097.039183

St. Michael's is the oldest Catholic parish in North Dakota. The Romanesque style church was built in 1909. It is the third church built on this block; the first church was destroyed by wind the second by fire. In his history of St. Michael’s, former priest of the church and noted historian notes, “They hired the Hancock Brothers firm in Fargo. These English born architects were the designers of part of the state capitol building, St. James church in Jamestown, and a number of government buildings throughout the area. They put together the magnificent Romanesque structure that is still the gathering place for St. Michael’s people.”
M&H (Miller and Holmes Inc.) owns and operates a network of convenience stores in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. The company was founded in 1896 and is based in Hudson, Wisconsin. This is one of several buildings that have housed the M&H Gas Station at this location. One store was so narrow that customers had to turn sidewise to pass one another.

During the Depression, M&H gave away glass premiums with gas sales.

Washington Elementary is a Classic Revival style school was built in 1907 at a cost of $39,000. During the city’s boom in the early 1900’s, debate flared about where to add classrooms. Ideas were to add a story on the original “Central School,” ot to squeeze a 12-room
schoolhouse next to it. The school board’s James Dinnie, a north side builder ad future mayor, pushed for building a new school near St. Michael’s, where the city owned property. The architect was William J. Edwards, who also designed St Michael’s School and Central High School.

On October 6, 2009 the city of Grand Forks celebrated the opening of the Smiley Playground in Midtown Park. Augustana Lutheran Church was the first owners of the Midtown Park where the new playground opened. The members of Augustana Lutheran Church wanted the families of the
neighborhood to have a park. To make this dream come true the church purchased the land and held it for one year. Church council minutes from a special congregational meeting held on July 6, 1975 state, "The congregation approved the purchase of Lots 10 and 12, Block 5, Original Townsite, Grand Forks, North Dakota (524 4 Avenue North) for $45,000. The property will be held by the church until purchased by the Grand Forks Park District in 1976 to build a neighborhood park." On October 6, 2009 the city of Grand Forks celebrated the opening of the Smiley Playground in Midtown Park.

In 1935 an Assembly of God church was built on the site. The original building was hastily built and had no foundation. The church was rebuilt in 1949. Over the years, the congregation outgrew this building, and Valley Christian Center 3920 Cherry Street was constructed. The building was renamed the antenna building in 1979 when the Assembly of God congregations left the building. A self-help organization bought the building ad re-named it the “Antenna Building”.
Bridgeman Dairy started in 1883 in Duluth and grew into a large Midwestern operation. To develop its ice cream line, Land O'Lakes acquired Bridgeman Creameries in 1954. Bridgeman Creameries was a chain of soda-grills in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and the operator of fluid milk businesses in North Dakota and Minnesota.

The Gustaf Adolf's SvenskaEvangelisk Luterska Forsamling, which translates to Gustavus Adolpus Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation built its first church at 18 N. 6th Street in 1899. In 1931, the name was changed to Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church, but
services remained in Swedish until 1935. Built just a few blocks from the congregation’s original site, this 1955 church features a huge image of Jesus, composed on 630 pieces of cut glass.

YMCA 311 North 4th Street N 47°55.570 W 097°02.128

The Young Women’s Christian Association (YMCA) had a number of locations downtown before settling into this home. In the 1950’s the YMCA organization raised enough money to build a brick building at 121N 5th St. This house was converted into apartments in 1954.
The Jack family once lived above their roller rink. St. Michael's Church held services in Jack’s Roller Rink for nearly 2 years while building a new church which opened in 1909. Later, the rink was used as a car dealership, Forx Motors, it was the home of Dakota TV and Appliance for many years, and later Adley Anne’s Baby & Maternity Boutique.
The Grand Forks Woolen Mills were built in 1895. The building was designed by local architect John W. Ross, with many large widows, to allow natural light so employees could see their wares. The mill produced yarn, shawls, underwear, shirts, skirts and Mackinaws (blankets woven with large bars of color). The business was owned by George B. Clifford, a founder of Cream of Wheat. The mills were designed by local architect John. W. Ross.

The south part of the building was the ticket, passenger and baggage station. The north part was the freight depot. Train platforms ran along the east side. The new Northern Pacific Depot was
designed to attract passenger traffic away from the Great Northern Railroad across town. It was built in 1929 when the automobile was eating away at short-term passenger service. The fashionable Tudor design, unique to Northern Pacific depots at the time, was a distinct architectural counterpoint to the massive Richardson Great Northern depot designed by Cass Gilbert in 1890. The George A. Lee Ag Park is along the south side of the building to honor George Lee (1902-1983); a Red River Valley farmer and conservationist. The park was also dedicated to his wife Anne Banick Lee in 1985.