

MOVING IDEAS TO ACTIONS



HELPING BUSINESSES THRIVE

More than half of the RRRRC's operational budget supports business and economic development activities predominately in rural communities. The RRRRC consults with regional entrepreneurs and existing businesses to start and expand through assisting with business plans, developing financial projections and securing funding, and addressing challenging operational issues. The RRRRC also provides direct loans intended to fill any financing gaps in a project.

Economic development is a team sport – joining the public and private sectors to grow local economies and developing quality job opportunities. Key partners and funders include local development corporations, county job development authorities, local utility companies, Small Business Development Center, USDA Rural Development, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, ND Department of Commerce, Small Business Administration, Bank of North Dakota, and others.

We are in it for the long haul. We have clients that we've assisted on several occasions over the years including several manufacturers that utilized the programs and services of the RRRRC to start and continue to expand to become strong companies with both domestic and international markets.

The RRRRC has established three loan programs to provide gap financing to rural businesses. The RRRRC has made 83 loans

totaling \$7.5 Million which leveraged \$61 Million over the life of these loan programs. We package business financing with private, local, county, regional, state, and federal funds to create and expand businesses in the region. We have also provided grant funding for infrastructure development in industrial/commercial parks to support business growth.

Since 2004, the RRRRC has assisted 908 business clients in securing more than \$22.3 million in grants and loans which leveraged an additional \$60 million to total more than \$82 million invested in regional businesses. These projects created/retained 1,046 jobs and started 52 new businesses.

PARTNERSHIPS AND LEVERAGE

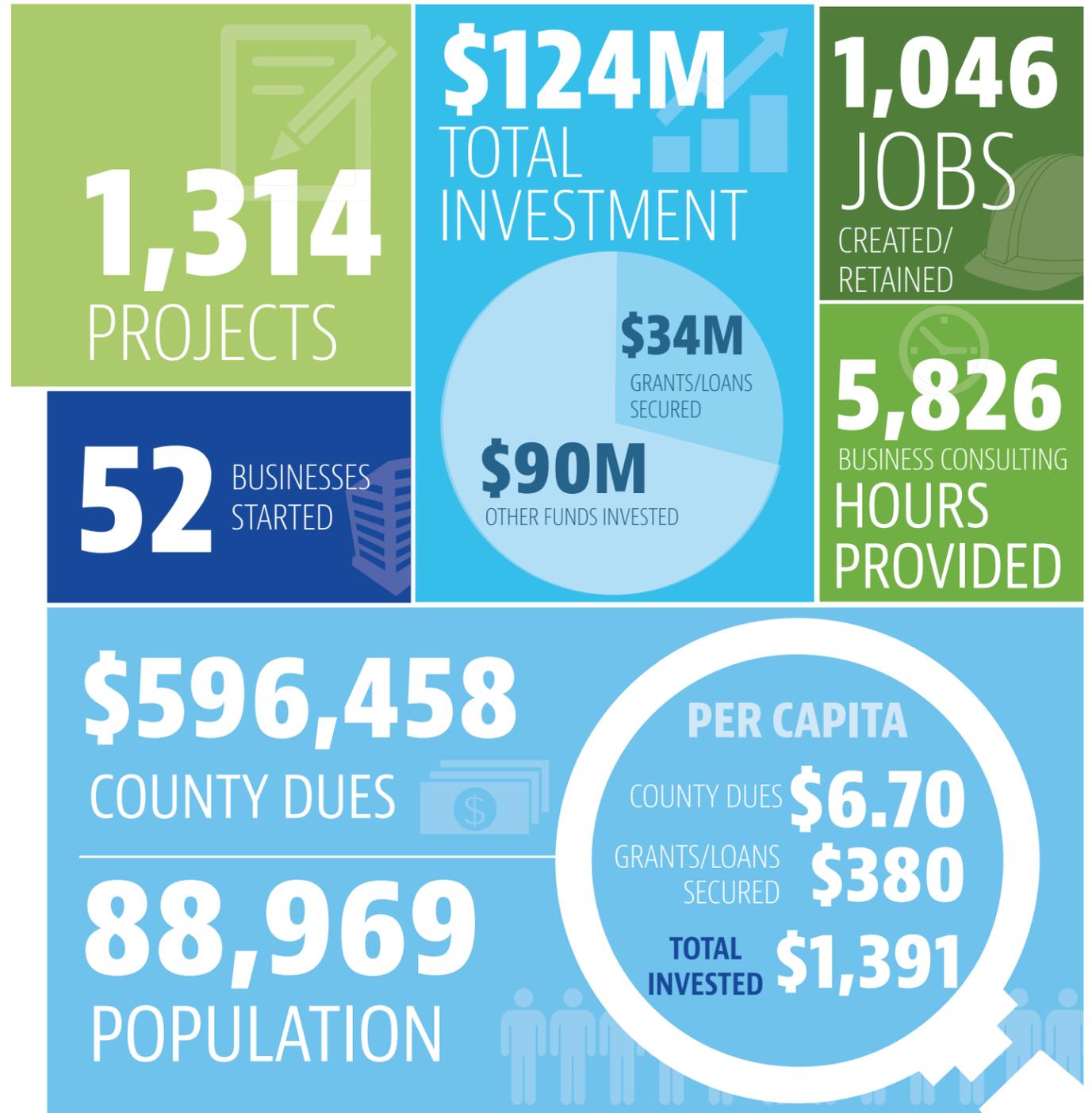
The RRRRC can only assist in completing local projects through many strong partnerships with local, county, regional, state, federal, and private sources. Providing resources and guidance, we work with all of these partners to find the optimum funding sources and create a path to "get to yes". Without these partners, nearly all of the projects we work on would not get completed. We strive to maintain these strong relationships and provide the technical expertise to our clientele to access the most appropriate and cost effective sources to complete local projects. Many of these projects can require one to fifteen technical and funding partners.

TOGETHER, WE MOVE IDEAS TO ACTIONS!



10 YEAR PROJECT SUMMARY

2004 THROUGH 2013



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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\$1 DUES INVESTED IN THE RED RIVER REGIONAL COUNCIL = **\$55.75** RETURN IN GRANTS/LOANS SECURED

5,575% RETURN ON INVESTMENT

NOTE: Data within this summary is based upon reports on file with the RRRRC which includes an individual project listing. (JULY 31, 2014)

PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

For more than 15 years, the Red River Riparian Program has been funded through the US Environmental Protection Agency (via the ND Department of Health) to repair and preserve streambanks and improve water quality in the Red River Valley. As this region has sustained 12 federally-declared emergencies and disasters over the past decade, the need for riparian solutions is at a high.

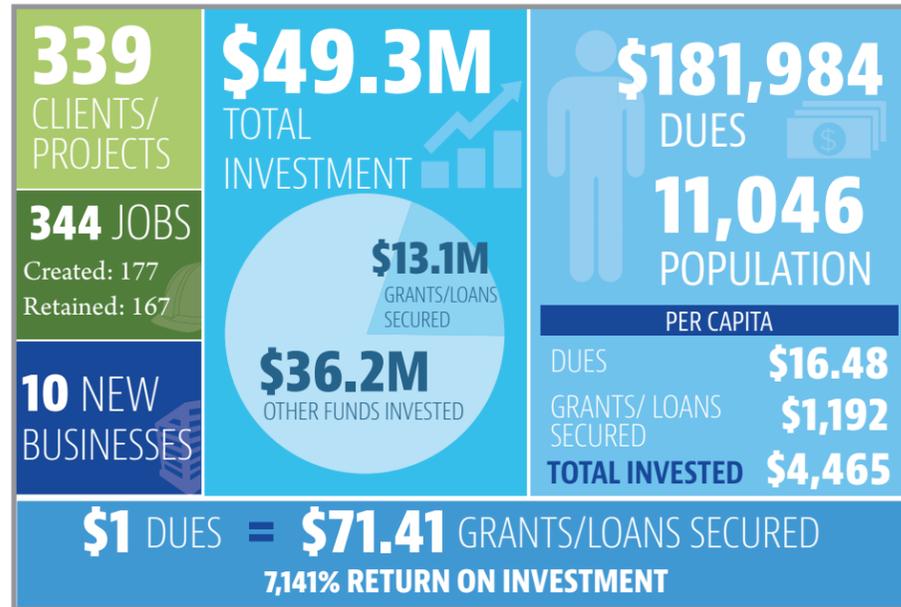
For the past seven years, the Pembina County Commission struggled to address a stream bank erosion issue that threatened a vital farm-to-market Pembina River bridge (O'Hara Bridge) located two miles west of the City of Pembina. The Commission explored several options to solve the problem. One option was to replace the existing bridge with a longer bridge with an estimated cost of upward of \$1 million even though there was nothing wrong with the existing bridge. The bridge was threatened by a continually eroding stream bank.

The County sought a more cost effective solution to this long-term problem. At a total cost of \$102,000, the Red River Riparian Program was able to help the County restore the stream bank and riparian areas, ultimately adding stability to the existing bridge. This project also addressed excess sediment and impaired water quality identified by the North Dakota Department of Health and the 303(d) listing of the Clean Water Act. So, the project served multiple objectives.

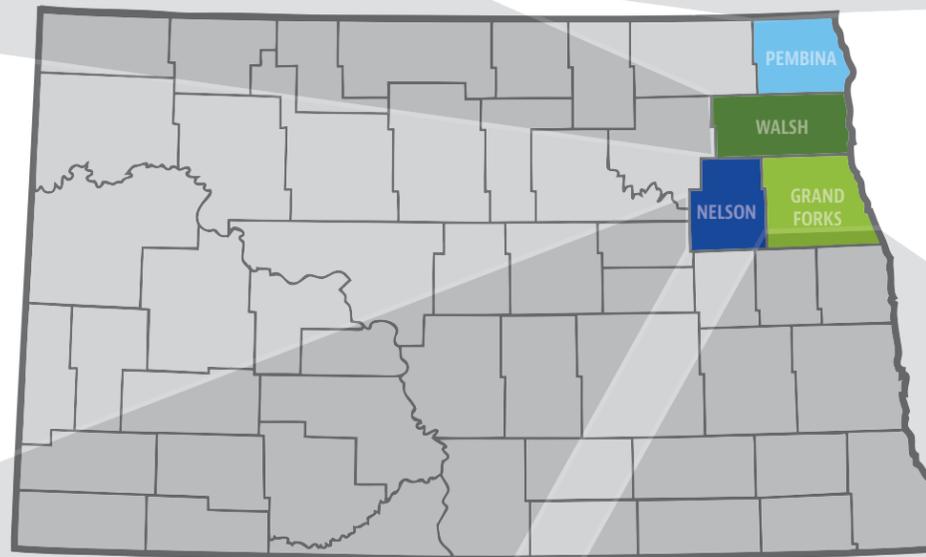
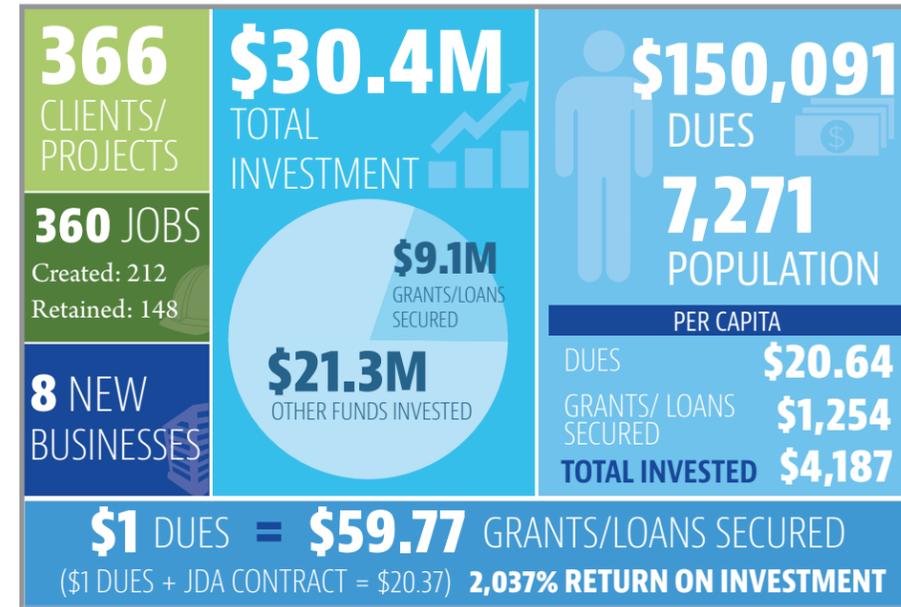
The O'Hara Bridge project required many strong partnerships - eight township, watershed, regional, state and federal agencies; two private consultants and funding organizations; and two private landowners. The RRRC develops projects such as this from idea to completion.



WALSH COUNTY

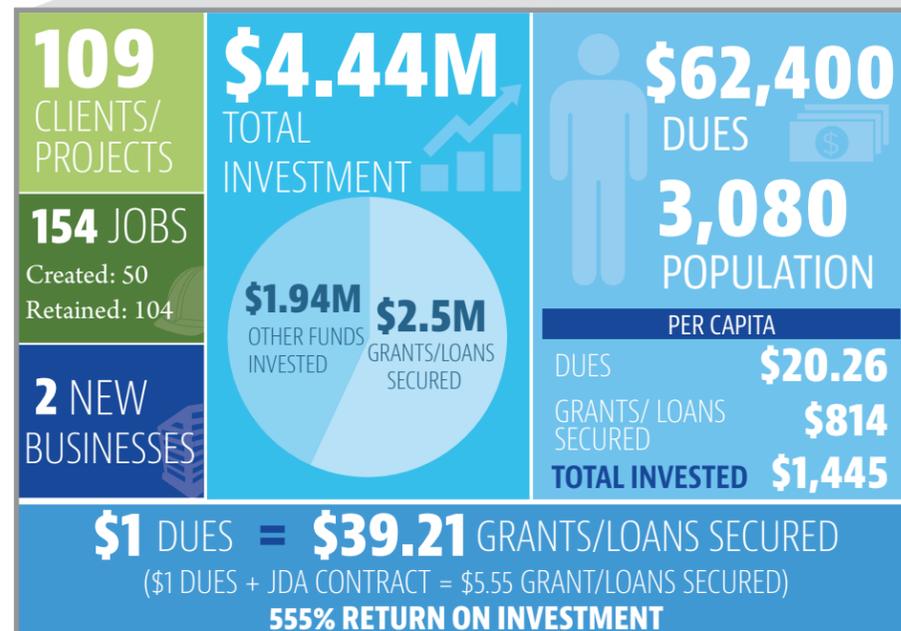


PEMBINA COUNTY

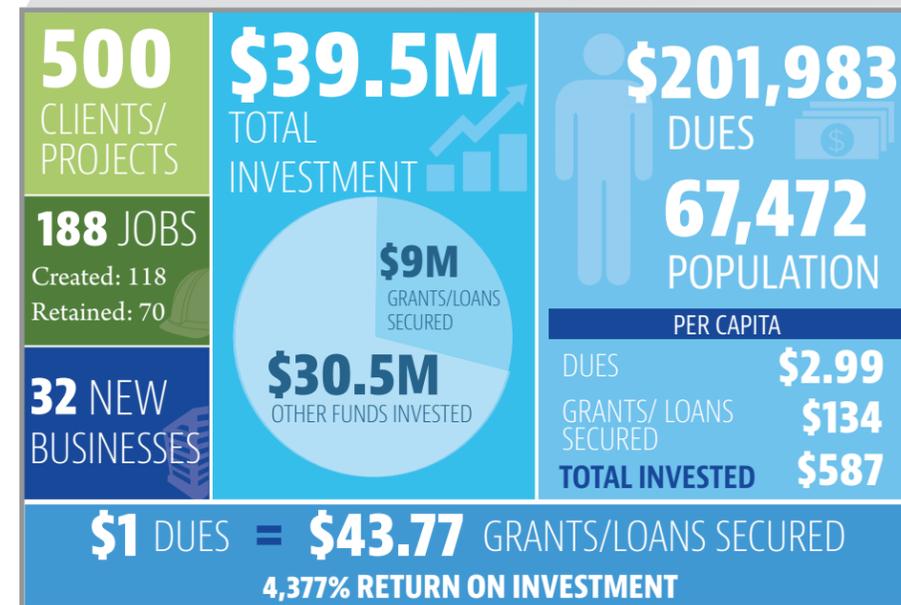


A LOOK AT 2004 - 2013

NELSON COUNTY



GRAND FORKS COUNTY



ADDRESSING HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Since 2005, the RRRC has led four housing rehabilitation projects investing nearly \$1.1 million from local, regional, state, and federal sources in 81 homes owned by low and moderate income homeowners. Housing has become a top priority throughout North Dakota and rehabilitation assists with preserving existing housing stock. Projects have been located in Walsh County and Cities of Thompson, Drayton, and Grafton. A new multi-phase project is underway in the City of Cavalier.

The RRRC works with local housing committees to assess needs, develop projects, complete grant writing, manage rehabilitation projects, and manage and meet requirements of local, state, federal and private funding.

The average investment per home is \$13,369 which is used to address such things as improving weatherization; replacing and repairing roofs, windows, doors, siding, gutters, plumbing, electrical; improving handicap accessibility; and other items necessary to meet state building code and HUD Section 8 Housing Quality Standards.

Housing development is also a key housing opportunity within the region. In 2013, the RRRC assisted a team of local leaders in Grafton to secure \$545,000 from the ND Housing Incentive Fund to support the adaptive reuse of the Prairieview Building located at the Life Skills and Transition Center in Grafton to be converted into 24 2-bedroom apartments.

Assisting rural communities in making vital infrastructure improvements is a key function of the RRRC. By providing grant assistance through the Community Development Block Grant program, we has assisted in the completion of 18 water, sewer, and street projects with \$2.2 million CDBG funds that were matched with \$19.4 million. CDBG funds target benefit to low and moderate income households largely through the payment of special assessments for these projects. Additional funds are sought through other state, federal, and bonding options.