

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Living Spaces"

Policy Letter 207: **Strengthen Focal Points**

BACKGROUND:

A neighborhood focal point may be a school, park, lake, or other natural or man-made feature, but it is whatever makes the families of that neighborhood turn to as a central gathering point. Normally the limits of a focal point's ability to attract people is to where the distance is perceived as being too great, or a major arterial street or feature causes a blockage for pedestrian access.

Each neighborhood has an identified focal point of some scale or magnitude and these focal points should be preserved and enhanced as the center of neighborhood cohesion. Public accessibility must be designated and land use planning must include provisions for reasonably extending access to the focal points through an open space network of parks and non-motorized pedestrian walkways.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should identify focal points in existing residential neighborhood area plans and neighborhoods, and establish guidelines to preserve and enhance these centers of neighborhood cohesion. As developers or owners come before the Planning Commission with development or redevelopment projects, these projects must reflect means for connecting and integrating the neighborhood focal point in new and existing neighborhoods.

CONCLUSION:

Preservation and means for enhancing the atmosphere of small town living in our existing residential neighborhoods can be obtained through supporting and promoting neighborhood focal points. The focal points are many times the center of the character or individuality of that neighborhood, and also a part of the character of the City of Fargo. Continued efforts must be made to promote the sense of community pride over old focal points in each existing residential neighborhoods and also into integrating focal points for each new and developing neighborhood.

* See also Policy 206