

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Public Spaces"

Policy Letter 601: Park Land Acquisition Guidelines

BACKGROUND:

New parks and recreation facilities will be required to adequately serve the needs of Fargo's residents in both the growing neighborhoods and the established neighborhoods. In addition to providing recreational opportunities, a well planned park system can contribute to aesthetic character and the environmental preservation of the City.

The City of Fargo has approximately 20,000 acres of developed land, and about 10% or 2,000 acres is park land. Land use developers in Fargo are not required by ordinance or any mandatory restriction on development to provide land for park use. Also, not all land use developers dedicated land for park use at the same levels or percentage.

Guidelines to ensure land use developers equally share the responsibility of providing new parks and recreation facilities are needed. Coordination between the Park Planners, City Planners, and developers for park land dedication has been successful. Additionally, developers now have the ability to special assess the development of park land and ensure the park land is fully operational in conjunction with families moving into the homes.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should establish park land acquisition guidelines to ensure the needs of residents are met, in both developing and established neighborhoods throughout Fargo.

CONCLUSION:

Mandatory park land dedication or money in lieu of land is a method that many cities use in park planning. The City of Fargo has developed a broad range of parks and recreational facilities throughout the community even in the absence of mandatory park land dedication. Guidelines should be established to provide for adequate City-wide park and recreational facilities. The current park land to developed land ratio of 10 to 1 acres appears to offer the community a high level of recreation services. The concern is that not all land use developers share equally in their responsibility to provide the citizens of Fargo with adequate park land throughout the community.