

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Public Spaces"

Policy Letter 603: Parks

BACKGROUND:

The distribution of parks and recreation facilities in Fargo 20 years ago was predominantly close to the Red River and east of 25th Street. More recently, parks and playfields are typically built adjacent to elementary, junior high, and senior high schools citywide. Overall, park land and playfield development covers a citywide service area and focuses less on providing neighborhood recreational services.

The City park system should balance the needs of residents for local or neighborhood parks with the need for regional parks. Residents' proximity to a park and the function of a park are key to residents, and supportive of the character of a neighborhood. Whether the park activity is active or passive in nature, the park plays a major role in addressing residents' broad-ranging needs. It is difficult to establish City-wide park and playfield standards for proximity, population levels per facility, and park size. But for the purpose of comprehensive land use planning, minimum standards for siting parks and playfields are required to balance residents' needs for local, neighborhood, community, linear, and regional recreation services.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should establish minimum land use development standards for the siting of City parks and playfields. The parks' strategic location and the services offered should be the basis for evaluating and balancing the need for local or neighborhood parks and playfields with the need for community or regional parks and playfields.

CONCLUSION:

A continuous evaluation and assessment of the recreation services offered to Fargo residents is important. Land use development is diverse and ever changing. As residential development of multiple family dwellings increases in density, siting land use reserved for recreational purposes must increase in proportion. Equally, the increases in recreational land use should be directed at meeting both the local or neighborhood needs, plus the larger needs of the community. The most appropriate solution for identifying land use development standards for recreational purposes may best be resolved by establishing guidelines for the minimum standards in the siting of City parks and playfields.*

* See the attached CITY PARKS AND PLAYFIELDS table

* See also Policy 601