

Comprehensive Policy Plan  
"Public Spaces"

Policy Letter 604: Amenities Plan

**BACKGROUND:**

Almost all new subdivision proposals include special features or amenities. While these features are assets to the development, the decision about the design, financing, and construction are usually left till very late in the land use development process. Occasionally, this can result in unresolved issues and problems. The amenities plan is a constructive way to identify and solve these problems early and at the same time provide long-term answers to financing and maintenance of amenities.

Early identification of details relating to features such as structures in the right-of-way, sidewalks, signs, and trees are critical in the process of orderly development. The City of Fargo administers a citywide tree planting program that is designed to plant or maintain tree plantings along the City's corridors and boulevards. Currently, tree planting on boulevards is left as an option to developers and many times boulevards go without trees or with little consistency to adjacent plantings.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

The City of Fargo should require land use developers to submit an Amenities Plan at the same time the plat is submitted for approval. This plan would lay out the intentions of the developer with respect to features and details relating to trees, sidewalks, bikeways, medians, fences, signs, structures in the right-of-way, and addressing.

**CONCLUSION:**

The amenities plan should outline the location, species, and any other details relevant to tree planting. The City of Fargo Forestry Department should review this plan with respect to tree planting, and ensure the appropriate spacing and tree species are planned. If builders, developers, or owners desire to plant trees before the City does, the resulting work and special assessment would be directed at the unfinished lots.