

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Public Spaces"

Policy Letter 605: Landscape Requirements for a City of Trees

BACKGROUND:

There is an interest and an important benefit in establishing a City tree planting design framework. Plantings are needed to revitalize community pride and community image. This framework should provide direction and identify opportunities to improve Fargo's design and aesthetic character.

The older city was built along the Red River and along streets with broad boulevards. The newer city is building away from the river and it is building along street corridors that must meet much higher capacity requirements. Most of this new growth, whether in residential areas or commercial corridors, has progressed without any design or tree planting requirements. In some cases, the space may be available but the building public is not well informed as to what would constitute good and desirable tree planting solutions. There is an inadequate regulatory or at least plan structure to guide decisions. In some cases, the underlying financial foundations are inadequate to a good tree planting program.

POLICY STATEMENT:

There should be a three pronged approach to improving tree planting in the City.

1. A public information program to improve citizen awareness.
2. A coordinated set of policies and regulations with respect to planting of trees.
3. Strengthen the Forestry Department's ability to achieve the City's tree planting objectives.

CONCLUSION:

The foundation of a "City of Trees" rests in the values and attitudes of an informed citizenry. All that follows will rest on this base. Citizen groups should work with the Forestry Department to design information packages. From this, acceptable plans, regulations, and ordinances can be developed and adopted. Finally, an acceptable means and level of finance for this policy needs to be identified. With this, the vision for Fargo to be a City of Trees is real and obtainable.