

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Public Spaces"

Policy Letter 606: Major Public Facilities

BACKGROUND:

Major public facilities like the airport, the NDSU campus, the Fargodome, hospitals, and federal, state, county, and city buildings typically develop institutional plans. The topics discussed in these plans vary from institution to institution, but they generally address issues relating to public space and the use of that space. Public space or grounds adjacent to the facility will include uses such as: 1) parking, 2) walkways, 3) driveways, and 4) storage areas.

Public facilities should provide services and amenities that accommodate the needs of residents visiting the facility, employees of the facility, as well as the neighborhood in which it is situated. Green spaces need to be a part of the area design for major public facilities, and they should be easily accessible. Aesthetic and functional benefits are provided through appropriate management of the facility's green space. By combining green space, amenities, and design features, the character and atmosphere of the facility can be greatly enhanced. Equally, green space can serve as storm water retention areas or as an area necessary for the piling of snow. The siting and design of green spaces should be a part of all institutional plans for the benefit of the facility and for the benefit of the residents of the area.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should encourage major public facilities to adopt an institutional plan that establishes standards for providing usable green space to both users and employees of the facility.

CONCLUSION:

Fargo City Hall should lead the way and set a positive example for the other major public facilities to follow. Both employees and citizens visiting City Hall should be able to access the adjacent green spaces. Park benches, chairs, tables, shaded areas, drinking fountains, garbage disposal cans, and many other amenities could complement these public green spaces. City Hall has the potential to link the public spaces of the Hjemkomst-Heritage Interpretive Center, Island Park, and the Library. By establishing standards for the use of the facilities' public green spaces, citizens can enjoy the benefits that develop from proper design and planning.