

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Public Spaces"

Policy Letter 607: Boulevard Tree Planting

BACKGROUND:

Although it may appear difficult to implement or undertake programs associated with City design features, the community has had experience and success in its reforestation program. The Forestry Department has the overall responsibility for maintenance of trees in boulevards, but the current policy for planting the initial boulevard tree is "No Free Trees". The operating funds for the department are derived from a City utility fee in the form of a forestry charge.

The City reforestation program is concerned with seven areas of the community:

1. Residential areas
2. The downtown area
3. Backyard elms
4. Entrances into the City
5. Park areas
6. Public areas
7. Industrial areas

Boulevards along main corridors and arterial streets are maintained by the existing forestry plan, but many boulevards throughout Fargo have planting space or room for additional trees. Also, planting on the downtown boulevard is limited due to a lack of sufficient ground that will support trees.

Priority for tree plantings should continue along high traffic corridor boulevards throughout Fargo.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should advance the existing boulevard tree planting program and continue to combat the loss of trees due to disease.

CONCLUSION:

The older residential neighborhoods in the City of Fargo have suffered the adverse consequences of disease and insect problems in trees. Diversification or variety in the species of tree plantings is critical to new plantings. The City Forestry Department plays a key role in managing the future of the City's design features as they relate to boulevard tree planting. As the City Forestry Department develops plans for diversification along the city boulevards; developers, builders, and owners must all share in the effort to preserve and enhance the features that make Fargo what it is today.