

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Public Spaces"

Policy Letter 611: Siting Public Spaces

BACKGROUND:

Many terms or definitions are used to describe the space where active or passive outdoor activity takes place. The City of Fargo has nearly 2,000 acres of park land which provides passive (e.g. hiking and bird watching) or active (e.g. soccer and baseball) recreational uses in the outdoors. Major public facilities also provide usable green space to the City's residents in a form that may not be the same as park land. Whether the land is park land or usable green space may not be critical, but what is important is how the City sites and links this outdoor public space.

The ideal standard for siting public spaces is to include both neighborhood parks and playfields in every area plan (one section of land). These recreational spaces should be connected to schools through linear parks when they are not built adjacent to each other. Additionally, other major facilities that provide services within the area should become a part of this park linkage.

The siting of public space within a neighborhood, and the linking of these spaces is important in promoting and preserving the character of Fargo. Siting public spaces is a positive approach in building the "small town atmosphere" in Fargo.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should encourage coordinated efforts for the siting and linking of outdoor public spaces throughout the community. Both park land and public green space should be linked through linear parks.*

CONCLUSION:

Communication and coordination must take place to ensure that a balance of siting and linking of public spaces occurs throughout Fargo. Area plans that are dominated by industrial or commercial land use must also have balanced access to public space. No section of land should be isolated and without access to public space.

Major public facilities that share recreational land should share the responsibilities for linkage throughout the area plan. "Use agreements" should be encouraged to assist in the coordination of space and facilities when public space is shared.

*See also Policy 208