



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, June 04, 2002

Study Session

Item -2

Discussion Concerning Greenspace Regulations

Greenspace provides a number of benefits to a community. These benefits range from creating an inviting environment and places for recreation to providing for storm water drainage.

Currently, the City has a landscaping ordinance that applies to new commercial/manufacturing buildings and uses. Landscaping along streets is done by individual property owners.

Most new city parks are purchased using general funds budgeted to the Parks Department. Trails are built with federal and city funds.

Parks and greenspace are provided by various means in communities. Landscape regulations can require property owners to install and maintain landscaping on their property. The City can charge fees to pay for new parks. Developers can be required to reserve space in their subdivisions for parks or trails. Combined facilities such as schools and parks lower the overall cost of providing greenspace. Property owners can donate land for public greenspace. Subdivision regulations can be written to give density bonuses to developers in exchange for maintaining greenspace.

The intent of this presentation is to open discussion on how greenspace and parks are acquired in Grand Island and to look at other possibilities.

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Greenspace in Grand Island

What is Greenspace?

- * Parks
- * Hike/Bike Trails
- * Playgrounds
- * Ball Fields
- * Golf Courses
- * Lakes
- * Detention Cells

What is Greenspace?

- * Landscaping
 - Streets
 - Yards
 - Parking Lots
 - Buffer Yards
 - Medians

What are the benefits of Greenspace?

- * Maintain and Enhance Property Values
- * Recreation
- * Public Pride
- * Positive Image
- * Improved Health
- * Calming Effects

Who provides Greenspace?

- * Business Owners
- * Home Owners
- * General Taxpayers
 - Schools
 - City Parks
 - Hike/Bike Trails
 - CRA

Who maintains Greenspace?

- * Business Improvement Districts
- * Home Owners Associations
- * Developers
- * Taxpayers
- * Business Owners
- * Home Owners
- * Volunteers
- * No One

How do we get Greenspace?

- * Volunteers
 - Home Owners
 - Business Owners
- * Buy it (Taxes)
- * Donations
- * Landscaping Regulations
- * Combined Uses

How do we get more Greenspace?

- * Donations
- * Buy it (Taxes)
- * Require property owners to provide it (landscaping regulations)
- * Create special districts (BID, CRA)
- * Fees on a per lot basis for new development
- * Require Dedications
- * Trail Easements
- * Offer Incentives to Developers