

Excavation Fees and Guidelines

The following fees and guidelines supplement the requirements of Fargo Municipal Code Article 18-09 (Excavation Code). All work must also comply with the Specifications for Construction, except as modified herein.

I. Fee, Insurance, and Bond Requirements

- A. The fee for a City-issued Excavator's License shall be \$250 annually due at the time of application. All City-issued Excavator Licenses expire on March 1.
- B. An applicant must file proof of liability insurance with the City Auditor and must agree in writing, on forms provided by the City Auditor, to hold the City harmless from any and all damages claimed by reason of negligence, carelessness, incompetence, or omission on the part of the applicant in the performance of its work, the same to include, but not be limited to, careless guarding of excavations or failure to restore all public properties to as good a condition as they were before such work was done. The minimum amount of insurance shall be \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- C. No license shall be granted by the City Auditor unless the applicant shall have given a bond that shall be in effect for two years, with good and sufficient surety, conditioned, among other things, that the applicant will save harmless the City from damages caused by reason of any negligence or faulty work by the applicant or any employee of the applicant, and that the material used and the work done shall be strictly in accordance with the requirements of 18-0909. The minimum amount of the bond shall be \$100,000 with the effective date of March 2.

II. General Permit Conditions

- A. Requirements before starting excavation
 - 1. Any Excavator that places concrete on City Streets must also submit proof of ACI Concrete Flatwork Certification as required in Section 2100 of the Specifications.
 - 2. The Permittee shall give all businesses affected by the project a minimum of 7 calendar days written notice of the project and the anticipated impacts to their business. This notice allows the Permittee and the adjacent businesses the time needed to coordinate garbage pickup, deliveries, etc. This written notice shall include the name of the Permittee and contact information for the onsite supervisor.
 - 3. The Permittee shall give all residents affected by the project a minimum of 2 calendar days written notice of the project and the anticipated impacts to their residence. Impacted residents include all residents affected by a water main shutdown and also residents that are in an area where the roadway is rerouted. This written notice shall include the name of the Permittee and the contact information for the onsite supervisor.
 - 4. The Permittee shall give the City Engineer a minimum notice of 2 business days prior to beginning a project so a press release can be created and distributed for the general public. This notice shall include a start date, impacts, and duration of the impacts.

5. The Permittee shall develop a traffic control plan if the work requires a sidewalk, parking lane, traffic lane, or road closure. The traffic control plan must include details on how traffic and pedestrians will be managed during the project. The sidewalk on one side of the street must remain open to the public at all times unless an alternate plan is approved by the City Engineer. The traffic control plan must be approved by the City Engineer at least two business days prior to work starting. Any changes to the traffic control plan must be approved by the City Engineer.
Traffic control on arterials and collectors shall meet all requirements for Traffic Control – Type 2 as specified in Section 4100 of the Specifications. Traffic control on all other roadways shall meet Traffic Control – Type 1 in Section 4100 of the Specifications. Permittee is responsible for all costs associated with traffic control.
6. Business Signing – Permittee shall provide business signing as specified by the City Engineer. Businesses that are impacted by a closed roadway shall have signs along the detour route indicating the best option for access to their business.
7. Trees – The Permittee shall use care to protect trees within the work area that are to remain during construction. In order to minimize tree damage the critical root zone (CRZ) must be protected from heavy construction activities at all times. The Permittee will be required to establish and mark out the CRZ areas prior to construction or staging occurring.
In the event the Permittee has work that must be performed within the CRZ, every effort must be made to minimize damage to the trees within the CRZ. Prior to commencing work within the CRZ, the Permittee will be required to present a plan of action to City Engineering that may include using smaller equipment, boring utilities, or other means of non-evasive action that will protect the trees. All branches and any roots over 4” diameter that are to be cut will require an inspection by a Forestry Department representative or other designated individual. Exposed roots shall be cut clean and backfilled as quickly as possible to avoid drying out.
If damage is caused to any existing tree due to the Permittee failure to adhere to the tree protection requirements, the City Forester will assess the damage to determine if the damage can be repaired or if the tree must be removed. Any action plan, as determined by the City Forester, to repair damaged trees shall be done by a certified arborist at the Permittee’s expense. If damage is so severe that tree removal is necessary, then the City will bill the Permittee for the appraised value of the trees, as determined by the City Forester utilizing the most recent edition of the Guide for Plant Appraisal by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers. The Permittee shall make payment within 30 days or interest will accrue until paid in full, in accordance with City policy.
8. The excavation work shall be performed and conducted so as not to interfere with access to emergency facilities such as fire hydrants, fire stations, fire escapes and any other emergency facilities designated by the City Engineer. If it becomes necessary to impact any of these facilities, the Permittee must contact the City Engineer and obtain approval prior to conducting any work that interferes with emergency facilities.

9. Permittee will have 30 days from the date of notice to complete all work in the Right of Way. The City will take necessary actions to complete temporary patches at any locations where the sidewalk or street are not finished. Any items in the right of way that are considered a hazard to the public will also be remedied by the City. The definition of hazard will be determined by the City Engineer. The cost to complete this work by the City or by any party contracted with the City will be the responsibility of the Permittee. Payment must be made by the Permittee within 30 days or interest will be charged.

B. Requirements during excavation

1. Permittee shall conduct and carry out excavation work in such a manner as to avoid unnecessary inconvenience and annoyance to the general public and occupants of neighboring property. In the performance of the excavation work, the Permittee shall take appropriate measures to reduce, to the fullest extent practicable, noise, dust and unsightly debris.
2. Boring or other methods to prevent cutting of pavement may be required by the City Engineer.
3. Permittee must comply with City noise ordinances, except in cases of emergency with written approval of the City.
4. Permittee shall install and maintain all traffic control and add additional devices as needed or as directed by the City Engineer.
5. The Permittee shall preserve and protect from damage any adjoining property by providing adequate support and taking all necessary measures. The Permittee shall, at its own expense, shore up and protect all buildings, walls, fences or other property likely to be damaged during the progress of the work and shall be responsible for all damage to public or private property resulting from its failure to properly protect and carry out said work.
6. No cleated equipment, buckets, or outriggers may be used on pavement unless pavement can be protected from damage to surface or subgrade.
7. The Permittee shall spot the location of all underground facilities within the excavation area by exposing prior to machine digging and protect the same against damage.
8. Permittee shall not inhibit or alter existing drainage patterns during or after the permitted work has been completed and restored.
9. Potholing shall be allowed under permit in City sidewalk or ADA ramps for locating purpose. Potholed sections shall be replaced during restoration. Partial section replacement is not permitted. The entire section of sidewalk and/or ADA ramp shall be removed and replaced to the nearest score line. Refer to Section 2300 of the Specifications. Additional ADA ramp layouts are available at <https://fargond.gov/city-government/departments/engineering/engineering-services/right-of-way-management/excavation-guidelines-policies>. Permittee shall contact the City Engineer prior to potholing in the street pavement section.

C. Removals

1. Removals shall follow Section 1050 of the Specifications. The use of heavy duty pavement breakers is not allowed. For removal of concrete pavement, the Permittee shall “double saw” the pavement at the removal lines to eliminate the risk of spalling the pavement that is to remain. The Permittee shall repair all spalled concrete by removing and replacing the entire spalled panel to the next joint at his sole expense.
2. All excavated material piled adjacent to the trench or in any street must not endanger those working in the trench, pedestrians or users of the streets, and minimize inconvenience to those using the streets and adjoining property. The City Engineer may require the Permittee to remove the excavation material from the worksite. Permittee must secure the necessary permission and make all necessary arrangements (permits, plans, etc.) for all required storage and disposal sites.
3. As the excavation work progresses, all streets shall be thoroughly cleaned of all rubbish, excess earth, rock and other debris resulting from such work.

D. Excavation

1. The Permittee shall verify that field conditions match the records provided during project planning. Any deviations from the approved plan must be approved by the City Engineer.
2. If the existing conditions do not match the approved site plan, the Engineer that designed the project must be contacted to redesign the work in the Right of Way. This revised plan must be resubmitted to the City Engineer for approval prior to work continuing.
3. Unstable pavement shall be removed over cave-outs and over-breaks and the restoration shall be treated as part of the main excavation.
4. Pavement edges shall be free of spalls and a full depth saw cut to leave a vertical face. Concrete pavement shall be removed a minimum of 1' from the edge of trench and shall follow existing joints. Asphalt pavement removals shall be normal or perpendicular to the roadway.
5. All damage to the existing surfaces must be repaired by the Permittee. Damage repair must be approved and accepted by the City Engineer.
6. Protection and Relocation of Utilities – Interference with existing facilities is prohibited without the written consent of the City Engineer and the facility owner.
 - a) City facilities may not be moved without prior written authorization from the City Engineer. When authorization is given, the Permittee shall be solely responsible for the cost of moving the City facilities.
 - b) Permittee shall support and protect all pipes, conduits, poles, wires, or other apparatus impacted by the excavation work at the direction of the facility owner.
 - c) Permittee may not move private facilities without the express written consent and the direction of the facility owner. The City is not responsible for any costs associated with the relocation or restoration.
 - d) Permittee must comply with North Dakota One Call requirements and locate and expose all vertical and horizontal underground facilities before starting excavation.
7. Damage to City facilities – Permittee is responsible for repair and replacement of any damaged City facilities. Any Permittee repairing or replacing damaged City facilities

must be approved by the City Engineer prior to starting repair or replacement. City shall inspect the repair to ensure it adheres to the latest Plumbing or applicable Code, and City Specifications. Failure to repair the damage within 48 hours will result in City undertaking and completing the work, at Permittee's sole expense.

8. Whenever a substructure is abandoned, except the abandonment of service lines three inches or less in diameter designed to serve single properties, the entity owning, using, controlling or having an interest therein shall, within 30 days after such abandonment, file with the City Engineer a statement in writing giving, in detail, the location of the substructure so abandoned. If such abandoned substructure is in the way or subsequently becomes in the way of an installation by the City or any other public body, which installation is pursuant to a governmental function, the owner shall remove such abandoned substructure or interfering portions thereof, or pay the cost of its removal during the course of excavation for construction of the facility by the City or the public body.

E. Backfilling

All backfilling must be completed within 48 hours of the commencement of the excavation unless prior authorization has been granted by the City Engineer for a longer duration. Backfilling of the excavation shall meet the requirements as detailed in the Specifications.

1. Compaction testing will be performed by the City Engineer except for protected streets defined in Section II.G. The City Engineer reserves the right to waive compaction testing. If the area is paved prior to compaction tests being performed, the Permittee shall remove the patch material at its sole expense for testing purposes.
2. Backfill material shall meet Specifications for the area that is backfilled. If aggregate material is contaminated during removal, new material meeting Specifications shall be used by the Permittee.
3. Under all pavement conditions, the aggregate base depth shall match the surrounding aggregate base and the base material must meet Specifications.

F. Restoration

1. Concrete, dowel requirements, and curb and gutter shall meet Section 2100 of the Specifications.
2. Asphalt shall meet Section 2400 of the Specifications. Corrective measures for any items not meeting Specifications will be at the discretion of the City Engineer up to and including removal and replacement.
3. All patches must be inspected after they are prepared and prior to placing any final road surfacing material.
4. All site restoration, including pavement replacement, sidewalk, curb and gutter, ADA ramp replacement, top soil depth requirements, fine grading, seeding, and mulching shall meet Specifications. Any surface disturbed by excavation shall be restored to as good a condition as it was prior to excavation. Restoration shall be made within 72 hours of the completion of backfilling unless a written time extension is granted by the City Engineer.

5. All cleanup operations at the location of such excavation shall be accomplished at the expense of the Permittee.
6. Immediately after completion of said work the Permittee shall clean up and remove all refuse and unused materials of any kind resulting from said work. Upon failure to do so, within 24 hours after having been notified, said work may be done by the City and the cost charged to the Permittee.
7. Whenever it may be necessary for the Permittee to excavate through any landscaped area the area shall be re-established in a manner that is as good as or better than before the work started.
8. All construction and maintenance work shall be done in a manner designed to leave the area clean of earth and debris and in a condition as nearly as possible to that which existed before such work began.
9. Permittee is responsible for all restoration.
10. Striping – Restoration of epoxy striping and plastic markings will be completed by the City Engineer. The Permittee will be responsible for payment of these items based on the prices in Appendix D.

G. Protected Streets

Protected Streets fall into two categories. The first is arterials or collectors that carry larger volumes of traffic and impact more users. The second category is streets that have a structural pavement surface that is 10 years old or less. Both categories have additional requirements that are listed in this section including traffic impact fees and possible re-inspection fees as shown in Appendix A.

1. The City Engineer will provide a map with a list of Protected Streets.
2. Fees for Protected Streets can be found in Appendix A. Fees for Protected Streets do not apply to private service connections on owner occupied single family residences.
3. An Inspection Checklist can be found in Appendix B that must be followed for work performed on all Protected Streets. The Permittee shall contact the City Engineer after each item is complete for inspection. If any of the checklist items are covered prior to inspection, the Permittee will be required to uncover so it can be inspected by and at the Permittee's expense. Inspection fees for inspection of covered work will be the responsibility of the Permittee.
4. Compaction tests must be performed on Protected Streets. The Permittee shall hire a testing firm approved by the City to perform all backfill test requirements. Backfill shall be placed in 12" lifts with a compaction test every 2' or as directed by the City Engineer. All costs associated with the required testing and any additional work needed to meet backfilling requirements to meet Specifications shall be the sole responsibility of the Permittee. The Permittee must provide proof the backfilling meets or exceeds compaction requirements prior to paving the excavated area. If the area is paved prior to compaction tests being performed, the Permittee shall remove the patch material by and at their expense for testing purposes.
5. If work is suspended for more than 48 hours, the Permittee shall remove lane closures and reopen any portion of the roadway that can be safely reopened.

6. Roadway Surface
 - a) Concrete placed shall meet Specifications and a mix design shall be submitted one week before placement for approval by the City Engineer. Curing compound shall be on site prior to concrete placement. Joints shall be sawed and sealed prior to roadway opening.
 - b) Asphalt placed shall meet Specifications and a mix design shall be submitted one week prior to placement for approval by the City Engineer. Asphalt shall be Class 43 and asphalt oil shall meet PG58H-34 at a minimum.
 - c) Roadway smoothness of all patches shall meet Specifications and any corrective measures needed to meet the specifications shall be arranged by the Permittee. All costs for corrective measures shall be the responsibility of the Permittee.

IV. Permit to Excavate

- A. An application for a permit allowing excavation or obstruction of the right-of-way shall be made to the City Engineer. Incomplete applications will not be considered and will be returned to the Permittee. An application is complete only upon compliance with the requirements of the following provisions:
 1. The applicant is a current “Licensed Excavator” with the City of Fargo unless exempted by Article 18-0904(A).
 2. Applicant has reviewed and agrees to meet all General Permit Conditions.
 3. Submission of details that include the proposed work, traffic control, and other information needed to complete the work.
 4. A drawing or detailed explanation of the proposed work and the distance between the proposed installation and City utilities. Any proposed work over one (1) block long must have a drawing to scale showing the proposed installation and the distance from City utilities. A block is defined as 350’.
 5. A traffic control plan if the work requires a sidewalk, parking lane, traffic lane, or road closure.
 6. A schedule of major activities in the right of way including durations.
 7. List of subcontractors working in the right of way.
 8. List of other agencies permitting the proposed project and the status of those permit applications.
 9. Any impacts to boulevard trees must be noted in the application. Tree impacts include impacts to the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) and compliance with City Ordinance. The CRZ is an area defined by the diameter of the tree as measured at a point 4.5 feet above the ground line. For every 1 inch of tree diameter, a 1 foot clear zone must be established to protect the CRZ. For a 24 inch diameter tree, the CRZ would be a 24 foot radius from the base of the tree.

- B. Issuance of Permit – The City Engineer may impose reasonable conditions upon the issuance of the permit to protect the structural integrity of the right-of-way and to protect safe passage of the public through the permitted area. The City Engineer may require a design locate and an onsite meeting with representatives of the Permittee, Contractor, Crew Chief, Utility Engineer, and Utility Inspector prior to issuing a permit. A 4 hour notice must be provided prior to scheduling an onsite meeting.
- C. Fees – The City will bill the Permittee and the Permittee shall make payment within 30 days or interest will accrue in accordance with City policy until paid in full. The City may require permit fees be paid prior to the issuance of the permit.
1. Administrative Fees – Administrative fees include permit fees and fees associated with failing to comply with these Guidelines, such as working without a permit and working without a license. Administrative fees are listed in Appendix A.
 2. Public Impact Fees – Public Impact Fees are fees based on impacts to the public during work when sidewalks, roadways, or parking is restricted or limited. Public Impact fees are listed in Appendix A.
 3. Inspection Fees – Inspection fees apply to any rework caused by installation of items without previous items getting inspected and approved by the City Engineer. Inspection fees are listed in Appendix A.

V. Final Acceptance

For sanitary sewer service connections completed prior to November 1, the City will video the sewer main by March 1 of the following year. Any defects detected on the video must be repaired by the Permittee no later than June 1.

After restoration is completed, Permittee shall contact the City Engineer for Final acceptance. City will inspect the work and notify the contractor of any defects. If defects are discovered, the City will notify the Permittee and the Permittee will have 30 calendar days to complete repairs. If repairs are not complete within 30 calendar days, no further permits will be issued to the Permittee and the City Engineer will make arrangements for repair. All costs incurred to complete repairs will be billed to the Permittee. Permits will not be issued until full payment is received by the City Engineer. All permits are considered open until a written Final Acceptance is issued by the City Engineer.

Permittee shall guarantee all work for 2 years from the date of Final Acceptance on all work completed. Permittee will continue to be responsible for any damage incurred that is not clearly visible at the time of final acceptance. Any damage discovered after Final Acceptance remains the responsibility of the Permittee. The Permittee will make the necessary arrangements to repair this damage within 30 calendar days of notification.

VI. Winter construction

Winter construction shall generally be from December 1 to May 1, but may be modified by the City Engineer based on current and forecasted weather conditions. The City Engineer will notify active excavators of the winter construction dates a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the start of winter construction. Non-emergency excavations will not be allowed during winter construction dates. Exceptions to the winter construction may be granted at the discretion of the City Engineer.

Emergency excavations during the winter shutdown will require all trenches under the traveled way be backfilled with gravel that is not frozen and tamped in six inch lifts or layers to at least one foot back of curb line. The upper 1.0 feet of the trench shall be composed of concrete slurry to be kept at grade at all times during winter construction dates and then restored to permanent resurfacing within 30 days of winter construction date removal in the spring. The permit will remain open and the Permittee is responsible for all maintenance of the patched area until permanent restoration of the pavement and sidewalk is completed and accepted.

VII. Violations

Failure to follow applicable Local Ordinances, State or Federal Laws, or Standards published by the City of Fargo will result in verbal or written notices and/or additional fees. Penalties may include fees, cancellation of permit, and/or revocation of their Fargo Excavator License. Details are located in Appendix C.

Appendix A

Administrative Fees

Permit Fee	\$100
Excavating without a permit	\$500
Street Excavation	\$50
Sidewalk Excavation	\$50
Boulevard Excavation	\$50
Inspection Fees	\$20/day for any rework required due to covering work that has not been inspected.

Public Impact Fees – Applicable to each route impacted during excavation

Private Service repairs for owner occupied single family residence

Sidewalk Closure	\$100/week after 2 weeks until completion
Lane	\$100/week after 2 weeks until completion An additional week will be allowed for a concrete street

Public Impact Fees – Not applicable to owner occupied residence private service work

Sidewalk Closure	\$100/week
Parking Spot Closure	\$100/week less than 5 spots
Parking Spot Closure	\$250/week 5 or more spots

Protected Streets

Arterial Streets

Lane Closure	\$300/week
Full Closure	\$500/week

Collector Streets

Lane Closure	\$150/week
Full Closure	\$300/week

Residential Streets

Lane Closure	\$100/week
Parking Lane Closure	\$40/day

All other Streets

Lane Closure	\$100/week
--------------	------------

Appendix B – Inspection Checklist

1. Traffic control – The applicant is responsible for providing a traffic control plan that meets MUTCD and Specifications. The traffic control plan must be approved by the City prior to work starting. Traffic control installation must be approved prior to the applicant starting the removal process.
2. Removal Limits – Prior to starting work a meeting shall be held with the City Engineer to determine removal limits and traffic control requirements.
3. Removal Items – Special attention shall be given to colored concrete, brick, ADA ramps, structural soil, reinforcing fabric, sidewalk, and roadway surface.
4. Backfilling of the excavation shall be in 12” lifts with compaction tests performed by an approved testing firm after completing 2 12” lifts. All coordination and costs will be the responsibility of the Permittee.
5. Reinforcing Fabric – When reinforcing fabric exists, the removal limits shall be extended to allow for a 12” overlap of the reinforcing fabric during backfilling operations.
6. Base material – Refer to Section 2070 of the Specifications for requirements. The City must inspect the base prior to completion of the restoration. If the restored area is paved prior to City inspection, the Permittee shall remove any material requested by the City to verify material depth by and at the Permittee’s expense unless the Permittee provides proof of depth and compaction results to the City.
7. Asphalt Patch – Refer to Section 2400 of the Specifications. Asphalt patch material must be FA 43 with PG 58H-34 oil. The applicant shall submit a mix design prior to starting the excavation. All mix designs must be approved by the City before asphalt can be placed in the patch area. Placement of the asphalt material must meet the latest version of the Specifications.
8. P.C. Concrete w/Asphalt Overlay - Asphalt shall be trimmed with asphalt spade or concrete saw. P.C. concrete shall be placed to a depth matching the surrounding concrete thickness and shall be reinforced in accordance with the Specifications. After a curing time, as approved by the City Engineer, the patch shall be painted with asphaltic cement and filled with compacted hot mix asphalt in accordance with Section 2400 of the Specification.
9. P.C. Concrete – Refer to Section 2100 of the Specifications. Dowel bars and reinforcing shall meet the same section of the Specifications. All concrete material properties must be tested by an approved testing firm during placement of the concrete. All coordination and costs will be the responsibility of the Permittee.
10. Graveled Surfaces – Refer to Section 2800 of the Specifications. Gravel surfaces shall be bladed, shaped and resurfaced with a minimum of six inches of gravel.
11. ADA Ramps and Sidewalks – Refer to Section of 2300 of the Specifications. Partial removals of ADA ramps are not permitted. Complete replacement of the ADA ramp or sidewalk ramp shall be replaced to conform to the latest edition of the Specifications. If the existing sidewalk isn’t ramped, it shall be replaced with an ADA ramp only if the curb is also removed. Additional sidewalk details can be found at <https://fargond.gov/city-government/departments/engineering/engineering-services/right-of-way-management/excavation-guidelines-policies>

12. Curb & Gutter – Refer to Section 2100 of the Specifications.
13. Colored concrete – Every effort must be made to match the existing color of the concrete in place on the roadway.
14. Bricks – Care must be taken by the applicant to salvage all bricks in the removal area. Any damaged bricks must be replaced by the applicant. Every effort must be made to match the existing color of the brick in place on the roadway.
15. Berms are to be restored as nearly as possible to their original condition. Seeding and fine grading shall conform to Section 3100 of the Specifications.

Appendix C

Violation Schedule

Failure to use approved traffic control	\$500/day
Failure to maintain traffic control	\$100/day
Failure to follow approved plan	\$250
Failure to give notice to residents and/or Engineering	\$100

All violations can also include permit revocation and/or license revocation

Appendix D – Striping Fees

4" Epoxy \$3.00/LF
4" Plastic \$8.00/LF includes 4" contrast marking tape
Wider tape is prorated by width. Example: 24" is 6x the 4" price

Epoxy Message	\$13/SF
Thermoplastic	\$50/SF
Plastic Message	\$25/SF