



Frequently Asked Questions: Boulevard Gardens in Fargo

Do I need a permit to plant on the boulevard by my house?

Yes. To obtain a permit, fill out the application form, agree to the Terms & Conditions, and send those items to KLipetzky@FargoND.gov. Items can also be mailed to the address at the bottom of the application form. Email or call 701.241.8195 if you have questions.

Also, make sure to check existing covenants to assure planting in the boulevard is allowed in your development and contact ND One Call ("811") for utility locations at least 48 hours before digging.

Can vegetables/edibles be planted on the boulevard?

Yes, but there might be other areas on your property to consider, for example, a raised bed in the back yard.

How do I know the soil on the boulevard is right for growing plants and vegetables?

The soil on your boulevard may contain salt that is sprayed onto icy winter roads or small amounts of motor oil from the street. Some things to consider to mitigate these concerns:

*Assess the street in front of your house (this is more of a concern if you live on a high traffic roadway than a small side street).

*Research shows the risk from plants taking up contaminants can be reduced by doing the following (these tips are good to remember wherever you may be planting in the yard):

- Adding compost can dilute the concentration of potential contaminants in the soil and improve the soil quality.
- Have your soil tested to be sure the nutrient levels in the soil are appropriate, then add what is needed if key nutrients are low. Research shows plants are less likely to take up contaminants when they have ideal nutrients available in the soil. NDSU provides soil testing: https://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/snrs/Files/lawn_and_garden_.pdf
- When you harvest a vegetable make sure to wash it thoroughly to get rid of excess soil.

*Plant pollinators (and other types of plants) closer to the street and any edible plants further away from the street; remember to leave a 1 foot buffer between your plantings and the curb.

*There are vegetables that are less likely to take up potential contaminants, such as tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, eggplants and berries.

*Certain vegetables have a high salt tolerance: bell peppers, broccoli, cabbage, kale, spinach, and tomatoes.

How do I make sure to maintain an appropriate sight line for pedestrians and bicyclists?

Use a graduated approach to planting. Use shorter plants like those that grow to be 12-18 inch height on the edge and taller ones closer to the middle; remember no plants should be over 24 inches tall.

How do I keep my plantings looking nice the entire season?

Start small, especially if this is a new adventure for you; gardens can be a lot of work and require regular maintenance to keep them looking nice.

Have a mix of plants that have blooms throughout the season. You can consult with local resources, such as area nurseries and Cass County Extension for horticulture and gardening ideas.

What type of mulch can I use?

Use shredded hardwood mulch around plants to prevent soil erosion; river rock or similar aggregate is not allowed.

Can I have structures as part of my boulevard garden?

Boulders and structures such as raised beds, retaining walls, fences, and steps are not allowed.

I live in Moorhead, do they allow boulevard gardens?

Yes, Moorhead has a similar policy, check this link for information:

<http://www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/home/showdocument?id=5260>