

Planting on the boulevard is permitted in residential areas in the city. The boulevard is the public right-of-way lying between the property line and sidewalk, and between the sidewalk and the roadway, or where no sidewalk exists, between the property line and the roadway. To learn more about boulevard gardens or to check if this is feasible for your site, review the frequently asked questions below.

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

If you plant directly into the ground, you do not need a permit; however, a permit is needed for a raised bed. 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. Keep your One Call ticket number for your records.

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 36 inches tall. Also, be aware of the plant height setbacks in the ordinance. For example, plantings within 30 feet of an intersection or 5 feet from an alley or driveway cannot be over 24 inches tall.

The ordinance refers to a dripline, what does that mean?

The “dripline” is an imaginary vertical line that extends from the outermost branches of a tree’s canopy to the ground. Planting in this area could potentially damage the tree’s roots.

Any proposed planting within the dripline of an existing boulevard tree(s) needs approval from the City Forester at 701.241.1465 or

<https://fargond.gov/city-government/departments/public-works/forestry>

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. Remember that invasive species and noxious weeds are not allowed.

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, retaining walls, fences, and steps are not allowed. Raised planting beds are allowed but will require a permit; certain stipulations must also be followed.

How do I obtain a permit for a raised bed?

To obtain a permit, fill out the application form included on this website. Send the application, along with required insurance documentation, to CStetz@FargoND.gov. Items can also be mailed to the address at the bottom of the application form. Email or call 701.241.1367 with any questions.

There is no permit fee. Permits will need to be renewed annually by filling out a permit renewal form.

What type of material is allowed for building a raised bed?

Build raised beds with material that can be easily removed if the City would need to access the boulevard. Use lumber or cedar; permanent material, such as concrete, is not allowed.

How tall can I build my raised bed?

The maximum height for a raised bed is 12 inches. Note: raised planting beds 4 inches or less do not require a permit.

Can I place my raised bed anywhere on the boulevard?

Refer to the ordinance for size and setback requirements. There are many shapes and sizes of boulevards and not every boulevard is conducive to having a raised planting bed.

My boulevard is too small for a raised bed; can vegetables/edibles be planted directly into the ground on the boulevard?

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

If I plant directly in the ground, 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.

I live in Moorhead; do they allow boulevard gardens?

Yes, Moorhead allows boulevard gardens. Check this link for more information: <http://www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/home/showdocument?id=5260>

What resources are available to learn about boulevard gardens?

NDSU Extension - Cass County:

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/casscountyextension/horticulture>

Contact Don Kinzler, Extension Agent, Horticulture: donald.kinzler@ndsu.edu

Cass County Soil Conservation District:

<https://cassscd.org>

Contact Jeffrey D. Miller, District Director: Jeffrey.d.miller@nd.nacdnet.net

NDSU Soil Testing is a resource for residents wanting to analyze their soil:

https://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/snrs/Files/lawn_and_garden_.pdf

For the full ordinance, the raised bed permit application and renewal forms:

www.letseatlocal.org

Contact Cheryl Stetz at CStetz@FaroND.gov

Boulevard gardens can be a beautiful addition to the community! If you plant on the boulevard, be a good neighbor and be sure to properly maintain your garden. It is important to remember that boulevards remain public property and the City retains the right to access the boulevard to perform necessary work, trim trees, and store excess snow. The City is not responsible for any damage or disruption to plantings. The City also has the right to restrict any plantings that could interfere with the public's health and safety.