The reality in 2016

The updated plan for the Urban Plains neighborhood was created in an attempt to improve walkability. The neighborhood will incorporate existing infrastructure as much as possible to create a more connected and pedestrian-friendly environment. The streets have been widened, and sidewalks have been added to most streets.

Parks and open space will be represented through the use of design standards, and the overall design, reflecting people’s preferences as much as possible, were a driving force in the overall design, reflecting people’s preferences.

The neighborhood will also incorporate the use of building materials, open spaces, and streetscapes. The character of these districts represents a piece of the Red River Valley’s historical attributes. The 320 acre site is divided into 4 districts.

**Districts**

- **FORB VALLEY**
  - Live Work Units
  - Mixed Use Commercial
  - 3 - 4 stories

- **MEADOWSPRAIRIE**
  - Apartments / Row homes
  - 2 - 4 stories

- **MAJESTIC OAKS**
  - Yard House
  - 1 - 2 stories

- **VETERANS BLVD**
  - Pocket Park
  - Traffic Calmed Arterial
  - 3 - 4 stories

**Building Types**

- **Live Work Units**
  - Mixed Use Commercial
  - 3 - 4 stories

- **Apartments / Row homes**
  - 2 - 4 stories

- **Yard House**
  - 1 - 2 stories

- **Pocket Park**
  - Mixed Use Commercial
  - Traffic Calmed Arterial
  - 3 - 4 stories

**Density**

- **Sanford Medical Center**
  - 10 people/acre

- **Sluffle Farm**
  - 7 people/acre

- **Saxum Park**
  - 6 people/acre

- **North Dakota State University**
  - 5 people/acre

- **Brandt First Addition**
  - 4 people/acre

**Neighborhood Walkability Comparisons**

- **Fargo / West Fargo Neighborhoods**
  - Overall walkability score: 60

- **SIOUX FALLS**
  - Overall walkability score: 70

- **BISMARCK**
  - Overall walkability score: 80

- **PITTSBURGH**
  - Overall walkability score: 90

- **SAN FRANCISCO**
  - Overall walkability score: 100

**Traffic**

- **I-94**
  - Traffic Calmed Arterial

- **32ND AVENUE**
  - Traffic Calmed Arterial

- **45TH STREET**
  - Traffic Calmed Arterial

**Ratio**

- **Density (people/acre):**
  - City area: 3.7 people/acre
  - Downtown: 20.8 people/acre
  - Fargo: 8.6 people/acre

**Parks and Open Space**

- **300' x 300' to encourage outdoor recreation.**

- **Provide a variety of amenities of living near or above retail and office.**

- **Allow everyone to easily access the open spaces.**

- **Link the entire neighborhood together and allow for any sense of enclosure for vehicles or pedestrians on the street.**

- **Buildings are almost all single use and are set back from the street too far to allow for any sense of enclosure for vehicles or pedestrians on the street.**

- **Retail buildings are almost all single use and are set back from the street too far to allow for any sense of enclosure for vehicles or pedestrians on the street.**

- **While the Urban Plains neighborhood is still being developed, what has been constructed so far has fallen short of the "downtown" type of environment that was intended to achieve.**

- **The neighborhood was intended to be a downtown, with high-density mixed-use buildings, and a building scale, form, and orientation that are reflective of this."**

- **The streets have been widened, and sidewalks have been added to most streets.**

- **Residential parking garages and large parking lots create dead zones along the streets, making it difficult for residents to get their day to day needs within the neighborhood.**

- **Single story destinations are lacking from the neighborhood, which prohibits the ability of allowing any sense of enclosure for vehicles or pedestrians on the street.**

- **Retail buildings are almost all single use and are set back from the street too far to allow for any sense of enclosure for vehicles or pedestrians on the street.**

- **While the Urban Plains neighborhood is still being developed, what has been constructed so far has fallen short of the "downtown" type of environment that was intended to achieve.**
Prairie Meadows Park was designed with Fargo’s natural landscape in mind. The park is a native oasis placed in an urban environment that creates a unique juxtaposition. The plantings in the park are inspired by the large open prairies of the Red River Valley. The native prairie grasses rule the park, with trees along the outer edges of the site to allow for some shady places for seating and other activities, while not taking away from the views of the open prairie.

Prairie Meadows Park was designed with Fargo’s natural landscape in mind. The park is a native oasis placed in an urban environment that creates a unique juxtaposition. The plantings in the park were inspired by the large open prairies of the Red River Valley. The native prairie grasses rule the park, with tree canopies along the outer edges of the site to allow for some shady places for seating and other activities.

The existing storm water retention pond was larger than what was needed so the retrofitted pond is designed in a way to meet the new water capacity needs. The site was designed to allow users to view the water at different levels. There is an elevation change of twelve feet from street level to the water edge. The water is meant to provide recreation for all seasons including kayaking, paddle boarding, and ice skating.

The overall concept for the forms of the park are inspired by the three main rivers flowing through the Fargo/Moorhead region. The Wild Rice, Sheyenne, and Red rivers all meander through the landscape with unique curves and all of the rivers encompass the distinctive forms of the Red River Valley. These meandering forms are implemented throughout the entirety of Prairie Meadows Park, but can be most explicitly seen in the terraces on the west side of the park.

A greenway trail connects existing trails from south of 32nd Avenue north up to the Sanford Medical Center and potentially further north by going underneath I-94. The greenway is named the Gerardii Greenway after the Latin name for Big Bluestem native grass, since the main experience along the greenway is traveling through the open prairie. The trail features bike lanes, a pedestrian lane, and tree canopy coverage in certain areas.

Prairie Meadows Park is designed to provide outdoor activities for different types of users and interests. There are many trails that go through the site, along with water recreation, large lawn areas for sunbathing or pickup games, a flex space that vendor tents can use during community events, a children’s playground, and plazas for festivals to take place, such as a food truck fair in West Meadows Plaza.
The boardwalk allows visitors to the site to get different views of Prairie Falls and the prairie could be celebrated in an event such as a Fire Festival. The water flows over the curving retaining walls which allows for native grasses to be burned in a safe manner, since it is surrounded by water. The burning of Indian Grass's scientific name 'Sorghastrum nutans,' this prairie character of the park.

This island will offer views of a wide open prairie that is great for a unique stroll around the pond and is great for a unique stroll around the Great Lawn as well. This patio area allows users to get close to the falling water and allows them to have more interaction with the water.

This trail takes users all the way around the boardwalks and to allow a comfortable seating option for people to enjoy. This section of the ramp takes users down in elevation 4'.

The falls act as an aeration technique to keep the water clean and also adds aesthetic value to the park. The water clean and also adds aesthetic value to the park.

Great Lawn as well.

The sidewalk will be activated through retail and dining areas will create a unique and inviting atmosphere that takes users down an elevation of 7'. This portion of the ramp takes users down an elevation of 5'.

The outdoor patio and the rest of the park.

The modern paving pattern will have stained concrete to the earth tones of the native grasses.

The modern paving pattern will have a dark gray/slate color to create a rich color palette and ties to the Red River Valley landscape. The walls have a simplistic character, much like the simplistic character of the light design as well.

The light pole will be made out of steel and will contain LED lights. Light poles will only be carried over from the Prairie Meadows District into the park. The light design follows the modern aesthetic that is used in high traffic areas such as plazas, as to not have too many vertical elements that take away from the horizontal plane.

Instead lighting will be incorporated into lower level lighting such as in bollards or etched into the steel panel on the front side of the signage piece. Signage will use the same signage design along handrails, so there is no inconsistency and allows for a seamless sight.

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