

CONVENOR'S SHEET

The Topic: Best Practices to Implement Park Dedications in County Zoning Ordinances

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Brief Summary (main points; important perspectives; interesting ideas):

Main Points

- The enabling legislation is 2 years old
- The statute and goal is different than the municipal rule
- Our Experience
 - Defining uses, commercial VS residential (planned unit development, common interest communities, conversions)
 - Reviewing developers agreements formally
- In Sherburne County a township collects the fee but gives 25% to the county and keeps 75% of the fee to be spent in the township. Some counties are using a sliding fee scale, depending on the size of the development.
- Stearns County will try to use service areas as a way to split funds
- Stearns County applied a park dedication to a common interest community which is similar to a planned unit seasonal development e.g. recreational vehicle home park

Important Perspectives

Stearns, Sherburne and Douglas attended as counties with park dedications. Crow Wing attended, but does not have dedication.

All of our ordinances work basically the same. There are language differences defining subdivision types and formulas for calculating fee values. We have all notices that as funds begin to accrue, township government gets more interested in the program.

None of us have disbursed funds from the account yet. One township has implemented it's own zoning since the statute was passed and they now collect and control the fee.

The initiative will be revisited over the next few years to determine whether or not it is an effective tool for park development.

Interesting Ideas

We would like to place a hot link on the bestpracticesmn.org website to counties/ordinances related to parks (Donald A. Lieffort, 320-762-2966)