

Streets Leading Nowhere Opened, Sidewalks Buried Under Landslides

The completed projects gave cinder streets, sidewalks, sewers, water, curb, gutters and all the improvements a modern city community could have. Streets that led nowhere were opened at great expense. Sidewalks became buried in landslides from the cuts made through hills to complete the projects. Water hydrants disappeared from view in the brush and weeds. The neighborhood, the north part of the ninth ward, today is derisively referred to as "the cow pasture folly." The projects, a sample of misdirected special improvement nonsense, defeated their own purpose. They forced taxes so high that home ownership was destroyed. Today much of the area has reverted to wilderness.

These special improvements in the ninth ward are an extreme example of the tax tragedies that follow reckless and ill advised street and other improvements in advance of real need. However, there is not a ward in the city in which, in greater or less degree, the same folly has not been repeated, to the ultimate sorrow and dismay of citizens who have been trying to own a home or to start a small business of some kind.