

APPENDIX A

(Current Community Development Department portion of the City annual report)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

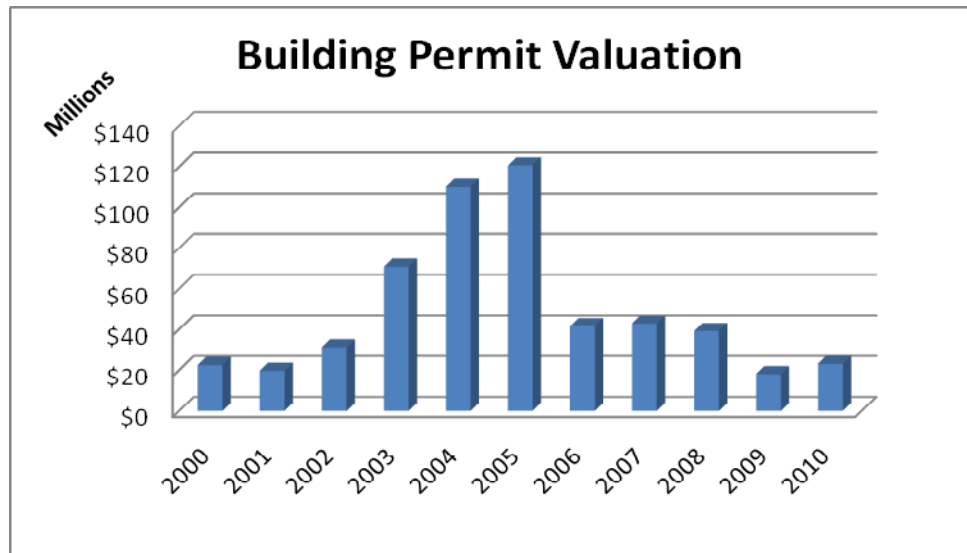
The Community Development Department consists of two divisions: 1) planning; and 2) building permits and inspections. The department operates under the direction of the Community Development Director. The Planning Division consists of the Planning Manager, Associate Planner, Environmental Coordinator, Economic Development Coordinator, and the department Secretary. The Planning Division oversees long range planning, land use, housing, economic development, recycling, and environmental issues. The Building Official supervises the Building Division which includes contract Building Inspections and a Permit Technician. This division is responsible for administering the Building Code and performing inspections.

Building Division:

Building Division continues its dedication to providing the general public with the most up-to-date building code information possible through project handouts both at the front counter as well as on the city web page. Staff members continue to be involved in the North Suburban Home Show. Also, as part of the division's effort to keep the public aware of building issues, the Building Official continues to work with QCTV in producing monthly segments on various home related topics. The Building Division also provides support to the Police Department and its Code Enforcement Program.

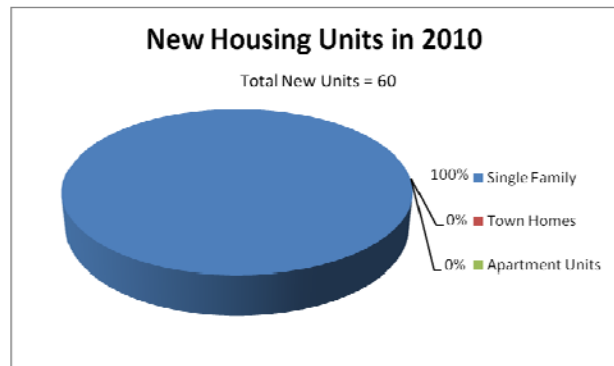
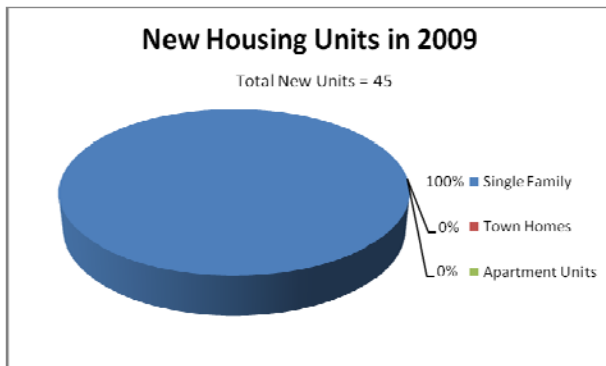
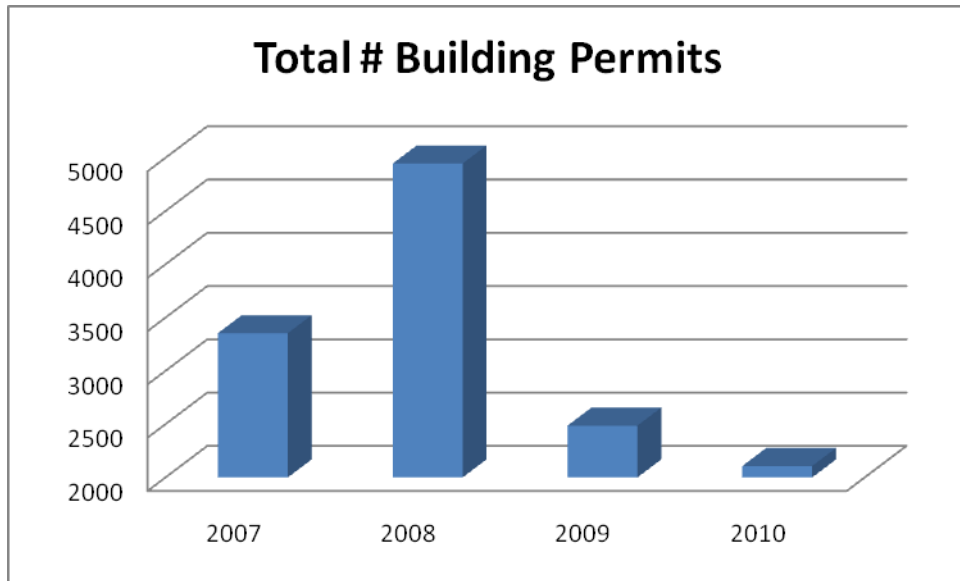
Permit valuation by years:

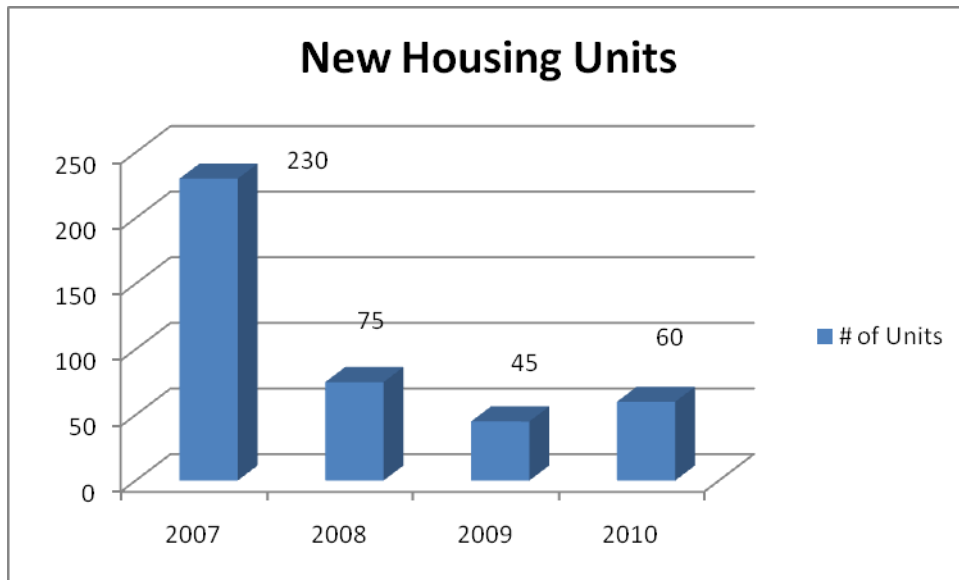
2000	\$22,559,900
2001	\$19,696,900
2002	\$31,258,025
2003	\$70,906,900
2004	\$110,119,200
2005	\$120,766,817
2006	\$41,679,869
2007	\$42,947,773
2008	\$39,232,642
2009	\$18,076,479
2010	\$23,156,715



Building Permits

Through December 2010, the City issued 60 housing unit permits. This number represents 60 single family homes. The total number of housing permits issued in 2010 was up 15 from the 45 issued in 2009. The total number of building permits issued in 2010 (swimming pools, accessory buildings, decks, additions, commercial buildings, septic systems and various repairs) was 2,107 which is a decrease of 379 permits from the 2,486 permits issued in 2009. The total valuation of the permits issued by the Building Division in 2010 was \$23,156,715.00, up from \$18,076,479.00 in 2009.





Rental Housing License Program

The Building Division administers the Rental Housing Licensing program. In 2010, City Council altered this program. The ordinance excludes single family homes and townhomes. The ordinance includes a rental license that applies only to multi-family housing with three or more dwelling units exclusively for occupancy by three or more families living independently of each other but sharing hallways and main entrances and exits.

Annual North Suburban Home Improvement Show

Another project the Building Division is proud to continue is its involvement in the annual North Suburban Home Improvement Show. This event invites local building contractors, residents, and City staff to come together for an opportunity to share local services and building programs. The great success of this show is evident in the fact the booth rental space continues to sell out. In addition to serving on the planning committee with several other staff members from the Cities of Anoka, Andover, and Coon Rapids, the City of Ramsey staff annually provides several education programs at the Home Show for those residents of various cities who attend.

Planning Division

The Planning Division was involved in several significant planning endeavors including implementation of the approved 2030 Comprehensive Plan, participation in the 2010 Census, and participation in DNR Rulemaking for Shoreland, Wild and Scenic, and Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) overlay districts.

Metropolitan Livable Communities Act 2011-2020

In 2010 the City elected to continue its participation in the Livable Communities Act (LCA) through the Metropolitan Council. The Minnesota Legislature created the LCA in 1995 and funded through 2010 and Ramsey was one of ninety seven communities to elect to participate in the original program. Since 1995, the City has received \$3,804,098 through the LCA program. In July the City Council adopted a resolution to continue the City's participation which also adopted both the proposed 2011-2020 LCA Affordable Housing Goals for the City at 434 to 669 and the proposed LCA Life-Cycle Housing Goals for

the City at 665 to 2430. In December the City Council adopted the Housing Action Plan which lays out how the City can expect to achieve its goals over the next ten years.

2030 Comprehensive Plan Update

With approval of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, the City spent time staging implementation of the Plan through ordinance amendments as required by Minnesota Statutes through the Metropolitan Council. Necessary amendments to the City's zoning code should be complete in the early months of 2011.

DNR Rulemaking for Shoreland Overlay, Wild and Scenic Overlay, and MRCCA Overlay

The City participated in monitoring of several rulemaking procedures with the DNR, most notably the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA). In 2009, the state legislature directed the DNR to commence rulemaking on this 72-mile corridor along the Mississippi River. Through Executive Orders and Minnesota Statutes dating back to 1972, the City is required to implement ordinances that are in substantial compliance with minimum rules along the corridor. The Legislature directed the DNR to update these rules in order for consistency along the corridor and to clarify many of the standards that meet the intent of the original executive order. The City expressed concern with existing rules, potential for additional non-conforming structures, and lack of background data to support the need for updated rules. Ultimately, the DNR was not successful in meeting the statutory deadline to implement the updated rules, and the process remains in limbo at this point. It is unclear to date as to whether the DNR will ask for an extension. The status is similar for the Shoreland/Wild and Scenic process as well.

Miscellaneous

In addition to the projects described above, the Planning Division received several land use applications including:

- Seven (7) Site Plans
- Seven (7) Subdivisions
- Six (6) Variances
- Fourteen (14) Conditional/Interim Use Permits
- Four (4) Home Occupations
- One (1) Comprehensive Plan Amendments
- Two (2) Easement Vacations
- One (1) Zoning Amendment

The Planning Division also processed several City Code Amendments, including a revised off-street parking ordinance, a revised sign ordinance, a revised subdivision ordinance related to individual water services, a revised rental housing ordinance, and revisions to zoning standards and setbacks for The COR. The off-street parking ordinance was amended to limit the number of items a parcel could sustain while clarifying numerous design standards related to off-street parking. The sign ordinance provides for additional permanent signs for commercial properties fronting two or more roadways and better enforcement capabilities for temporary signs. A revised subdivision ordinance was needed to address shared utilities and associated safety concerns due to vacant units in cold weather conditions. Finally, additional flexibility in setbacks was provided in The COR in the downtown area.

The Planning Division continues to support strengthening the City's mapping and GIS capabilities, participating in LOGIS GIS planning meetings. gGov, was integrated into the City's new website in 2010

with assistance from the IT Manager, and the City looks forward to ways to enhance the accessibility of this resource. The City has been an active participant in a web-based property data system update known as LOGISmap. This web-map is an integral part of many of the City's staff members daily duties.

In addition to the land use applications and ordinance amendments summarized above, the Planning Division actively participates in Code Enforcement in conjunction with the Ramsey Police Department. The Planning Division supports these efforts through enforcement of the City's zoning ordinances.

The City has monitored and is preparing for an active 2011 Minnesota legislative session for land use issues. In addition to the rulemaking procedures that may see legislative requests in 2011, the City is actively monitoring and exploring possible alternatives in response to a 2010 Minnesota Supreme Court ruling regarding Variance. The ruling changed the face of how each Minnesota City processes variances, and eliminated a tool of flexibility previously available. The City explored options for a more flexible zoning ordinance and expects to review alternatives in early 2011.

Recycling Program:

In 2010, approximately 2,302 tons of recyclable materials were collected curbside and roughly forty (40) additional tons were recycled at the spring and fall recycling events, resulting in a total of 2,342 tons of materials recycled by the residents of Ramsey. This was more than enough to exceed Ramsey's tonnage goal (2,051 tons), which is established by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. In fact, this is the fifth consecutive year now that Ramsey has exceeded its tonnage goal. There was a 90% participation rate amongst households in the recycling program, which remains consistent with the participation rate since 2006, when the City made the switch to a simple sort (no separating of materials required) collection system.

The City once again coordinated recycling events in the spring and fall of the year. The events provide an opportunity for residents to recycle materials that are generally not accepted through the curbside program such as electronics, tires, scrap metal, good useable furniture, appliances and batteries. At these events, residents can also bring in personal documents for shredding, at no cost to them, which not only assures that the material is recycled but that residents can help prevent identity theft by having their documents securely destroyed. A new addition to the events in 2010 was the ability for residents to recycle mattresses, box springs, and sleeper sofas, regardless of their condition, for a small fee.

In 2010, Ramsey teamed up with several other Anoka County municipalities (Andover, Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids, East Bethel and Fridley) to coordinate a rain barrel and compost bin sale. These products help conserve water and turn food waste into compost (rather than disposing of it in the garbage). This event was a hit with well over 400 rain barrels sold and over 200 compost bins sold.

Environmental Issues:

Shade tree diseases and pests continue to be a major concern. Staff continues to respond to concerns about oak wilt, a very prevalent and devastating shade tree disease, and provide recommendations for management and control strategies. Now that Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been found in the metropolitan area, Staff has responded to numerous inquiries and concerns about this insect and has

prepared educational information for both the website and the newsletter. Furthermore, Staff has drafted an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan that, should City Council approve it (hopefully early in 2011), will help the City prepare for this invasive pest.

Due to a combination of factors (drought, insect attack and hail damage), many of the red pines in the community are declining. The communities of Ramsey and Andover jointly applied for and received grant monies through a FireWise program to assist property owners most significantly impacted by this problem. After some difficulty, an interested contractor was found and has begun removing dead/dying pines in an attempt to reduce fire fuels as well as reduce habitat for pine bark beetles.

The City continues to offer assistance with identification of invasive/undesirable plants such as buckthorn. There are two (2) weed wrenches that residents can 'check out' to assist with removal of undesirable woody plants. The intent of the program is to provide residents an opportunity to combat unwanted plants without using harsh herbicides.

The City coordinated the Environmental Expo and Tree Sale again in 2010. In its third year at the Municipal Center, attendance again improved over the previous year. The event featured approximately thirty (30) exhibitors, various presentations focusing on energy conservation, emerald ash borer, geothermal heating, and water conservation through smart irrigation. The students at Ramsey Elementary School participated in an environmentally themed coloring contest and their art work was on display throughout the event as well. The tree sale component, which is held in the parking ramp, again included a 'pre-order' option that has proven to be very successful. Residents have a wide array of species and root stock to choose from and this helps them get an early jump on spring!

The City maintained its' Tree City USA designation for the eighteenth (18th) consecutive year. Maintaining this designation requires, among other things, the City to officially observe Arbor Day. So, in recognition of Arbor Day, the City coordinated a planting event at Forest Hideaway Park, where roughly 100 seedlings were planted, and then concluded the day at the community garden site, where another seven (7) fruit trees were planted.