

# **POLICY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CITY OWNED LAND**

City of Ramsey, Minnesota

## **SECTION I: PURPOSE**

To establish a set of guidelines and criteria the City shall review when considering the acquisition of real estate. This policy is meant to act as a formal guide for the City and shall not be considered a legal requirement.

## **SECTION II: OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this policy is to limit the City from acquiring real estate that is unneeded for either current or foreseeable future demands.

## **SECTION III: PUBLIC BENEFIT**

There are a number of benefits to the public in limiting the City from acquiring unneeded real estate.

- (1) Reduced future City property maintenance costs
- (2) Reduced future City liability
- (3) Preservation of tax base
- (4) Reduced future City resources needed for management of City owned parcels

## **SECTION III: DECISION CRITERIA**

The following three sub sections, including potential use, compliance and policy statements, outline the criteria that shall be considered before the City acquires real estate. Each criterion shall be considered both for current and future demand.

The City shall consider the acquisition of real estate if the subject property meets one of the following potential uses.

### **POTENTIAL USE CRITERIA**

- (1) Economic development purposes; including removal of blighted properties and enhancing the City's tax base
- (2) Public works and maintenance facilities, staging and storage areas
- (3) Public safety facilities, staging and storage areas
- (4) Administrative service facilities
- (5) Public Right of Way; including roads, railroads and airports
- (6) Drainage, wetland and utility easements
- (7) Enhancement of housing stock; including redevelopment purposes
- (8) Public parks, trails and open space

- (9) Dedication of land through the subdivision process; including unrestricted land to be used in lieu of a cash contribution

Consideration for the acquisition of real estate by the City shall be given based on the compliance and consistency with the criteria outlined below.

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA

- (10) City Comprehensive plan
- (11) City Comprehensive water and sewer plans
- (12) City Master parks and trails plan
- (13) City Transportation plan
- (14) Relevant City boards and commissions review
- (15) City Ordinances, Sec. 117-614. - Subdivision Design Standards

The City shall consider the acquisition of City owned land based on the policy statements outlined below

POLICY STATEMENT CRITERIA

- (16) The demand for public parks is shifting away from small neighborhood pocket parks to larger regional community parks. The cost to maintain a large number of small neighborhood pocket parks can be greater than the cost to maintain a small number of regional community parks. As such, the City will consider the consolidation of underutilized pocket parks in favor of larger regional parks.
- (17) The City shall not acquire real estate if there is no foreseeable current or future need for the property.
- (18) Regarding the dedication of parks and open spaces, unless it is desired to acquire new parkland, the City shall favor the dedication of cash over the dedication of real estate. If real estate is dedicated the City shall favor an unrestricted title over restricted title.