

**ORDINANCE #15-15  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 117 OF THE CITY CODE, WHICH CHAPTER IS KNOWN AS  
ZONING AND SUBDIVISIONS OF THE CITY CODE OF RAMSEY, MINNESOTA**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 117-1 (DEFINITIONS) AND SUBDIVISION III  
(FLOODPLAIN OVERLAY DISTRICTS) OF THE RAMSEY CITY CODE.**

The City of Ramsey Ordains:

**SECTION 1 AUTHORITY**

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to and under the authority of the City Charter of the City of Ramsey.

**SECTION 2 AMENDMENTS**

Section 117-1 is amended to include the following definitions:

*Base Flood Elevation* means the elevation of the “regional flood”. The term “base flood elevation” is used in the flood insurance study.

*Farm Fence* means an open type fence of posts and wire, which is permitted to accommodate agricultural activities and the raising of livestock and animals in certain zoning districts, and is not considered to be a structure with regard to floodplain regulations.

*Lowest Floor* means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, used solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage in an area other than a basement area, is not considered a building’s lowest floor.

*One Hundred Year Floodplain* means lands inundated by the Regional Flood.

*Recreational Vehicle* means a vehicle that is built on a single chassis, is 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection, is designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck, and is designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as a temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use. For the purposes of Subdivision III (Floodplain Overlay Districts), the term recreational vehicle is synonymous with the term ‘travel trailer/travel vehicle’.

*Special Flood Hazard Area* is a term used for flood insurance purposes synonymous with ‘One Hundred Year Floodplain’.

*Substantial Damage* means damage of any origin sustained by a structure where the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

*Substantial Improvement* means within any consecutive 365-day period, any reconstruction, rehabilitation (including normal maintenance and repair), repair after damage, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the “start of construction”, as defined in 44 Code of Federal Regulations 59.1, of the improvement. This term includes structures that have incurred Substantial Damage, regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:

- (1) Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions.
- (2) Any alteration of a “historic structure”, as defined in 44 Code of Federal Regulations 59.1, provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure’s continued designation as a “historic structure”.

Subdivision III (Floodplain Overlay Districts) is hereby repealed and replaced with the following:

Sec. 117-180. – Statutory authorization and purpose.

(a) Statutory Authorization. The legislature of the State of Minnesota has, in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103F and Chapter 462, delegated the responsibility to local government units to adopt regulations designed to minimize flood losses. Therefore, the City Council does ordain as follows.

(b) Purpose

- (1) This Subdivision regulates development in the flood hazard areas of the city. These flood hazard areas are subject to periodic inundation, which may result in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base. It is the purpose of this Section to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare by minimizing these losses and disruptions.
- (2) National Flood Insurance Program Compliance. This ordinance is adopted to comply with the rules and regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program codified as 44 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 59 -78, as amended, so as to maintain the city’s eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- (3) This Subdivision is also intended to preserve the natural characteristics and functions of watercourses and floodplains in order to moderate flood and stormwater impacts, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, protect aquatic and riparian habitat, provide recreational opportunities, provide aesthetic benefits and enhance community and economic development.

Sec. 117-181. – General Provisions

(a) This Subdivision adopts the floodplain maps applicable to the city and includes three floodplain districts: Floodway, Flood Fringe, and General Floodplain.

- (1) Where Floodway and Flood Fringe districts are delineated on the floodplain maps, the standards in Section 117-183 or 117-184 will apply, depending on the location of a property.
- (2) Locations where Floodway and Flood Fringe districts are not delineated on the floodplain maps are considered to fall within the General Floodplain district. Within the General Floodplain district, the Floodway District standards in Section 117-183 apply unless the floodway boundary is determined, according to the process outlined in Section 117-185. Once the floodway boundary is determined, the Flood Fringe district standards in Section 117-184 may apply outside the floodway.

- (b) Lands to which this Subdivision applies. This Subdivision applies to all lands within the jurisdiction of the city shown on the Official Zoning Map and/or the attachments to the map as being located within the boundaries of the Floodway, Flood Fringe, or General Floodplain districts.
- (1) The Floodway, Flood Fringe and General Floodplain districts are overlay districts that are superimposed on all existing zoning districts. The standards imposed in the overlay districts are in addition to any other requirements in the underlying zoning district. In case of a conflict, the more restrictive standards will apply.
- (c) Incorporation of maps by reference. The following maps, together with all attached material, are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be a part of the Official Zoning Map and this Subdivision. The attached material includes the Flood Insurance Study for Anoka County, Minnesota, and Incorporated Areas and the Flood Insurance Rate Maps enumerated below, all dated December 16, 2015 and all prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These materials are on file in the Community Development Department.
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- (d) Regulatory flood protection elevation. The regulatory flood protection elevation (RFPE) is an elevation no lower than one foot above the elevation of the regional flood plus any increases in flood elevation caused by encroachments on the floodplain that result from designation of a floodway.
- (e) Interpretation. The boundaries of the zoning districts are determined by scaling distances on the Flood Insurance Rate Map.
- (1) Where a conflict exists between the floodplain limits illustrated on the official zoning map and actual field conditions, the flood elevations shall be the governing factor. The Zoning Administrator must interpret the boundary location based on the ground elevations that existed on the site on the date of the first National Flood Insurance Program map showing the area within the regulatory floodplain, and other available technical data.
- (2) Persons contesting the location of the district boundaries will be given a reasonable opportunity to present their case to the Planning Commission and to submit technical evidence.
- (f) Abrogation and greater restrictions. It is not intended by this Subdivision to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or other private agreements. However, where this Subdivision imposes greater restrictions, the provisions of this Subdivision prevail.
- (g) Warning and disclaimer of liability. This Subdivision does not imply that areas outside the floodplain districts or land uses permitted within such districts will be free from flooding or flood damages. This Subdivision does not create liability on the part of the city or its officers or employees for any flood damages that result from reliance on this Subdivision or any administrative decision lawfully made thereunder.
- (h) Severability. If any section, clause, provision, or portion of this Subdivision is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of law, the remainder of this Subdivision shall not be affected and shall remain in full force.

- (i) Annexations. The Flood Insurance Rate Map panels adopted by reference into Section 117-181 (c) above may include floodplain areas that lie outside of the corporate boundaries of the city at the time of adoption of this Subdivision. If any of these floodplain land areas are annexed into the city after the date of adoption of this Subdivision, the newly annexed floodplain lands will be subject to the provisions of this Subdivision immediately upon the date of annexation.

Sec. 117-182. – Establishment of flood zone districts.

(a) Districts.

- (1) Floodway District. The Floodway District includes those areas designated as floodway on the Flood Insurance Rate Map adopted in Section 117-181. For lakes, wetlands and other basins (that do not have a floodway designated), the Floodway District includes those areas designated as Zone A or AE on the Flood Insurance Rate Map that are at or below the ordinary high water level as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Section 103G.005, subdivision 14.
- (2) Flood Fringe District. The Flood Fringe District includes those areas designated as floodway fringe on the Flood Insurance Rate Map adopted in Section 117-181 as being within Zone AE but being located outside of the floodway. For lakes, wetlands and other basins (that do not have a floodway designated), the Flood Fringe District includes those areas designated as Zone A or AE on the Flood Insurance Rate Map panels adopted in Section 117-181 that are below the 1% annual chance (100-year) flood elevation but above the ordinary high water level as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Section 103G.005, subdivision 14.
- (3) General Floodplain District. The General Floodplain District includes those areas designated as Zone A or Zone AE without a floodway on the Flood Insurance Rate Map adopted in Section 117-181, but not subject to the criteria in Section 117-182 (a)(1) and (2) above.

- (b) Compliance. Within the floodplain districts established in this Subdivision, the use of any land, the use, size, type and location of structures on lots, the installation and maintenance of transportation, utility, water supply and waste treatment facilities, and the subdivision of land must comply with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable regulations. All uses not listed as permitted uses or conditional uses in Sections 117-183, 117-184, and 117-185, respectively, are prohibited. In addition, a caution is provided here that:

- (1) New and replacement manufactured homes and certain recreational vehicles are subject to the general provisions of this Subdivision and specifically Section 117-188.
- (2) Modifications, additions, structural alterations, normal maintenance and repair, or repair after damage to existing nonconforming structures and nonconforming uses of structures or land are regulated by the general provisions of this Subdivision and specifically Section 117-190.
- (3) All structures must be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.
- (4) As-built elevations for elevated or floodproofed structures must be certified by ground surveys and flood-proofing techniques must be designed and certified by a registered professional engineer or architect as specified in the general provisions of this Subdivision and specifically as stated in Section 117-189.

Sec. 117-183. – Floodway District (FW)

- (a) Permitted uses. The following uses, subject to the standards set forth in 117-183 (b), are permitted uses if otherwise allowed in the underlying zoning district or any applicable overlay district:

- (1) General farming, pasture, grazing, outdoor plant nurseries, horticulture, truck farming, forestry, sod farming, and wild crop harvesting.
- (2) Industrial-commercial loading areas, parking areas, and airport landing strips.
- (3) Open space uses, including but not limited to private and public golf courses, tennis courts, driving ranges, archery ranges, picnic grounds, boat launching ramps, swimming areas, parks, wildlife and nature preserves, game farms, fish hatcheries, shooting preserves, hunting and fishing areas, and single or multiple purpose recreational trails.
- (4) Residential lawns, gardens, parking areas, and play areas.
- (5) Railroads, streets, bridges, utility transmission lines and pipelines, provided that the Department of Natural Resources' Area Hydrologist is notified at least ten days prior to issuance of any permit, and that the standards in 117-183 (d)(1), 117-183 (d)(3) and 117-183 (d)(6) are met.

(b) Standards for Floodway Permitted Uses:

- (1) The use must have a low flood damage potential.
- (2) With the exception of the uses listed in 117-183 (a)(5), the use must not obstruct flood flows or increase flood elevations and must not involve structures, fill, obstructions, excavations or storage of materials or equipment.
- (3) Any facility that will be used by employees or the general public must be designed with a flood warning system that provides adequate time for evacuation if the area is inundated to a depth and velocity such that the depth (in feet) multiplied by the velocity (in feet per second) would exceed a product of four upon occurrence of the regional (1% chance) flood.

(c) Conditional Uses. The following uses may be allowed as conditional uses following the standards and procedures set forth in Section 117-189 (d) of this Subdivision and further subject to the standards set forth in Section 117-183 (d), if otherwise allowed in the underlying zoning district or any applicable overlay district.

- (1) Structures accessory to the uses listed in Section 117-183 (a) and the uses listed in subsections (c) (2) through (9) below.
- (2) Extraction and storage of sand, gravel, and other materials.
- (3) Marinas, boat rentals, docks, piers, wharves, and water control structures.
- (4) Storage yards for equipment, machinery, or materials.
- (5) Placement of fill or construction of fences that obstruct flood flows. Farm fences, as defined in Sec. 117-1, are permitted uses.
- (6) Travel-ready recreational vehicles meeting the exception standards in Section 117-188(b)(2).
- (7) Levees or dikes intended to protect agricultural crops for a frequency flood event equal to or less than the 10-year frequency flood event.

(d) Standards for Floodway Conditional Uses:

- (1) All uses. A conditional use must not cause any increase in the stage of the 1% chance or regional flood or cause an increase in flood damages in the reach or reaches affected.
- (2) Fill; storage of materials and equipment:
  - a. The storage or processing of materials that are, in time of flooding, flammable, explosive, or potentially injurious to human, animal, or plant life is prohibited.
  - b. Fill, dredge spoil, and other similar materials deposited or stored in the floodplain must be protected from erosion by vegetative cover, mulching, riprap or other acceptable method. Permanent sand and gravel operations and similar uses must be covered by a long-term site development plan.
  - c. Temporary placement of fill, other materials, or equipment which would cause an increase to the stage of the 1% percent chance or regional flood may only be allowed if the city has approved a plan that assures removal of the materials from the floodway based upon the flood warning time available.

- (3) Accessory Structures:
- a. Accessory structures must not be designed for human habitation.
  - b. Accessory structures, if permitted, must be constructed and placed on the building site so as to offer the minimum obstruction to the flow of flood waters:
    1. Whenever possible, structures must be constructed with the longitudinal axis parallel to the direction of flood flow; and
    2. So far as practicable, structures must be placed approximately on the same flood flow lines as those of adjoining structures.
  - c. Accessory structures must be elevated on fill or structurally dry floodproofed in accordance with the FP-1 or FP-2 floodproofing classifications in the MN State Building Code. All floodproofed accessory structures must meet the following additional standards:
    1. The structure must be adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement and designed to equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls; and
    2. Any mechanical and utility equipment in the structure must be elevated to or above the regulatory flood protection elevation or properly floodproofed.
  - d. As an alternative, an accessory structure may be internally/wet floodproofed to the FP-3 or FP-4 floodproofing classifications in the MN State Building Code, provided the accessory structure constitutes a minimal investment and does not exceed 576 square feet in size. A detached garage may only be used for parking of vehicles and limited storage. All structures must meet the following standards:
    1. To allow for the equalization of hydrostatic pressure, there must be a minimum of two “automatic” openings in the outside walls of the structure, with a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding; and
    2. There must be openings on at least two sides of the structure and the bottom of all openings must be no higher than one foot above the lowest adjacent grade to the structure. Using human intervention to open a garage door prior to flooding will not satisfy this requirement for automatic openings.
- (4) Structural works for flood control that will change the course, current or cross section of protected wetlands or public waters are subject to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 103G.245.
- (5) A levee, dike or floodwall constructed in the floodway must not cause an increase to the 1% chance or regional flood. The technical analysis must assume equal conveyance or storage loss on both sides of a stream.
- (6) Floodway developments must not adversely affect the hydraulic capacity of the channel and adjoining floodplain of any tributary watercourse or drainage system.

Sec. 117-184. – Flood Fringe District (FF)

- (a) Permitted uses. Permitted uses are those uses of land or structures allowed in the underlying zoning district(s) that comply with the standards in subsection (b) below.
- (b) Standards for flood fringe permitted uses.
- (1) All structures, including accessory structures, must be elevated on fill so that the lowest floor, as defined, is at or above the regulatory flood protection elevation. The finished fill elevation for structures must be no lower than one foot below the regulatory flood protection elevation and the fill must extend at the same elevation at least 15 feet beyond the outside limits of the structure.
    - a. All service utilities, including ductwork, must be elevated or water-tight to prevent infiltration of floodwaters.
    - b. As an alternative to elevation on fill, an accessory structure that constitutes a minimal investment and that does not exceed 576 square feet in size may be internally floodproofed in accordance with 117-183 (d)(3).

- (2) The cumulative placement of fill or similar material on a parcel must not exceed 1,000 cubic yards, unless the fill is specifically intended to elevate a structure in accordance with subsection (a) above, or if allowed as a conditional use under Section 117-184(c)(3) below.
  - (3) The storage of any materials or equipment must be elevated on fill to the regulatory flood protection elevation.
  - (4) The storage or processing of materials that are, in time of flooding, flammable, explosive, or potentially injurious to human, animal, or plant life is prohibited.
  - (5) Fill must be properly compacted and the slopes must be properly protected by the use of riprap, vegetative cover or other acceptable method.
  - (6) All new principal structures must have vehicular access at or above an elevation not more than two feet below the regulatory flood protection elevation, or must have a flood warning /emergency evacuation plan acceptable to the City.
  - (7) Accessory uses such as yards, railroad tracks, and parking lots may be at an elevation lower than the regulatory flood protection elevation. However, any facilities used by employees or the general public must be designed with a flood warning system that provides adequate time for evacuation if the area is inundated to a depth and velocity such that the depth (in feet) multiplied by the velocity (in feet per second) would exceed a product of four upon occurrence of the regional (1% chance) flood.
  - (8) Interference with normal manufacturing/industrial plant operations must be minimized, especially along streams having protracted flood durations. In considering permit applications, due consideration must be given to the needs of industries with operations that require a floodplain location.
  - (9) Flood fringe developments must not adversely affect the hydraulic capacity of the channel and adjoining floodplain of any tributary watercourse or drainage system.
  - (10) Manufactured homes and recreational vehicles must meet the standards of Section 117-188.
- (c) Conditional Uses. The following uses and activities may be allowed as conditional uses, if allowed in the underlying zoning district(s) or any applicable overlay district, following the procedures in Section 117-189(d). Conditional uses must meet the standards in (4) through (10) above and Section 117-184(d).
- (1) Any structure that is not elevated on fill or floodproofed in accordance with Section 117-184(b)(1)a. and b.
  - (2) Storage of any material or equipment below the regulatory flood protection elevation.
  - (3) The cumulative placement of more than 1,000 cubic yards of fill when the fill is not being used to elevate a structure in accordance with (b)(1) above.
- (d) Standards for Flood Fringe Conditional Uses.
- (1) The standards listed in Section 117-184(b) (4) through (10) apply to all conditional uses.
  - (2) Basements, as defined in subsection 117-1, are subject to the following:
    - a. Residential basement construction is not allowed below the regulatory flood protection elevation.
    - b. Non-residential basements may be allowed below the regulatory flood protection elevation provided the basement is structurally dry floodproofed in accordance with 117-184(d)(3).
  - (3) All areas of nonresidential structures, including basements, to be placed below the regulatory flood protection elevation must be floodproofed in accordance with the structurally dry floodproofing classifications in the MN State Building Code. Structurally dry floodproofing must meet the FP-1 or FP-2 floodproofing classification in the MN State Building Code, which requires making the structure watertight with the walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of buoyancy. Structures wet floodproofed to the FP-3 or FP-4 classification are not permitted.

- (4) The placement of more than 1,000 cubic yards of fill or other similar material on a parcel (other than for the purpose of elevating a structure to the regulatory flood protection elevation) must comply with an approved erosion/sedimentation control plan.
  - a. The plan must clearly specify methods to be used to stabilize the fill on site for a flood event at a minimum of the regional (1% chance) flood event.
  - b. The plan must be prepared and certified by a registered professional engineer or other qualified individual acceptable to the City.
  - c. The plan may incorporate alternative procedures for removal of the material from the floodplain if adequate flood warning time exists.
- (5) Storage of materials and equipment below the regulatory flood protection elevation must comply with an approved emergency plan providing for removal of such materials within the time available after a flood warning.
- (6) Alternative elevation methods other than the use of fill may be utilized to elevate a structure's lowest floor above the regulatory flood protection elevation. These alternative methods may include the use of stilts, pilings, parallel walls, etc., or above-grade, enclosed areas such as crawl spaces or tuck under garages. The base or floor of an enclosed area shall be considered above-grade and not a structure's basement or lowest floor if:
  - a. The enclosed area is above-grade on at least one side of the structure.
  - b. It is designed to internally flood and is constructed with flood resistant materials.
  - c. It is used solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage. The above-noted alternative elevation methods are subject to the following additional standards:
    1. Design and Certification - The structure's design and as-built condition must be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect as being in compliance with the general design standards of the MN State Building Code and, specifically, that all electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities must be at or above the regulatory flood protection elevation or be designed to prevent flood water from entering or accumulating within these components during times of flooding.
    2. Specific Standards for Above-grade, Enclosed Areas - Above-grade, fully enclosed areas such as crawl spaces or tuck under garages must be designed to internally flood and the design plans must stipulate:
      - i. The minimum area of openings in the walls where internal flooding is to be used as a floodproofing technique. There shall be a minimum of two openings on at least two sides of the structure and the bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade. The automatic openings shall have a minimum net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding unless a registered professional engineer or architect certifies that a smaller net area would suffice. The automatic openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of flood waters without any form of human intervention; and
      - ii. That the enclosed area will be designed of flood resistant materials in accordance with the FP-3 or FP-4 classifications in the MN State Building Code and shall be used solely for building access, parking of vehicles, or storage.

Sec. 117-185 General Floodplain District (GF)

(a) Permitted Uses.

- (1) The uses listed in 117-183 (a), Floodway District Permitted Uses, are permitted uses.

- (2) All other uses are subject to the floodway/flood fringe evaluation criteria specified in 117-185 (b) below. Section 117-183 applies if the proposed use is determined to be in the Floodway District. Section 117-184 applies if the proposed use is determined to be in the Flood Fringe District.

(b) Procedures for Floodway and Flood Fringe Determinations.

- (1) Upon receipt of an application for a permit or other approval within the General Floodplain District, the Zoning Administrator must obtain, review and reasonably utilize any regional flood elevation and floodway data available from a federal, state, or other source.
- (2) If regional flood elevation and floodway data are not readily available, the applicant must furnish additional information, as needed, to determine the regulatory flood protection elevation and whether the proposed use would fall within the Floodway or Flood Fringe District. Information must be consistent with accepted hydrological and hydraulic engineering standards and the standards in 117-185 (b)(3) below.
- (3) The determination of floodway and flood fringe must include the following components, as applicable:
  - a. Estimate the peak discharge of the regional (1% chance) flood.
  - b. Calculate the water surface profile of the regional flood based upon a hydraulic analysis of the stream channel and overbank areas.
  - c. Compute the floodway necessary to convey or store the regional flood without increasing flood stages more than one-half (0.5) foot. A lesser stage increase than 0.5 foot is required if, as a result of the stage increase, increased flood damages would result. An equal degree of encroachment on both sides of the stream within the reach must be assumed in computing floodway boundaries.
- (4) The Zoning Administrator will review the submitted information and assess the technical evaluation and the recommended Floodway and/or Flood Fringe District boundary. The assessment must include the cumulative effects of previous floodway encroachments. The Zoning Administrator may seek technical assistance from a designated engineer or other expert person or agency, including the MN Department of Natural Resources, before presenting the technical evaluation and findings to the City Council. The City Council must formally accept the technical evaluation and the recommended floodway and/or flood fringe district boundary or deny the permit application. The City Council, prior to official action, may submit the application and all supporting data and analyses to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the MN Department of Natural Resources, or the Planning Commission for review and comment.
- (5) Once the Floodway and Flood Fringe District boundaries have been determined, the City Council shall refer the matter back to the Zoning Administrator to process the permit application consistent with the applicable provisions of Section 117-183 and 117-184.

Sec. 117-186 Subdivisions

- (a) Subdivisions. No land may be subdivided which is unsuitable for reasons of flooding or inadequate drainage, water supply or sewage treatment facilities. Manufactured home parks and recreational vehicle parks or campgrounds are considered subdivisions under this Section.
  - (1) All lots within the floodplain districts must be able to contain a building site outside of the Floodway District at or above the regulatory flood protection elevation.
  - (2) All subdivisions must have road access both to the subdivision and to the individual building sites no lower than two feet below the regulatory flood protection elevation, unless a flood warning emergency plan for the safe evacuation of all vehicles and people during the regional (1% chance) flood has been approved by the City Council. The plan must be prepared by a registered engineer or other qualified individual, and must demonstrate that adequate time and personnel exist to carry out the evacuation.

- (3) For all subdivisions in the floodplain, the Floodway and Flood Fringe District boundaries, the regulatory flood protection elevation, and the required elevation of all access roads must be clearly labeled on all required subdivision drawings and platting documents.
- (4) In the General Floodplain District, applicants must provide the information required in Section 117-185 (b) to determine the regional flood elevation, the Floodway and Flood Fringe District boundaries and the regulatory flood protection elevation for the subdivision site.

Sec. 117-187 Public Utilities, Railroads, Roads, and Bridges.

- (a) **Public Utilities.** All public utilities and facilities such as gas, electrical, sewer, and water supply systems to be located in the floodplain must be floodproofed in accordance with the MN State Building Code or elevated to the regulatory flood protection elevation.
- (b) **Public Transportation Facilities.** Railroad tracks, roads, and bridges to be located within the floodplain must comply with Sections 117-183 and 117-184. These transportation facilities must be elevated to the regulatory flood protection elevation where failure or interruption of these facilities would result in danger to the public health or safety or where such facilities are essential to the orderly functioning of the area. Minor or auxiliary roads or railroads may be constructed at a lower elevation where failure or interruption of transportation services would not endanger the public health or safety.
- (c) **On-site Water Supply and Sewage Treatment Systems.** Where public utilities are not provided:
  - (1) On-site water supply systems must be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the systems; and
  - (2) New or replacement on-site sewage treatment systems must be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the systems and discharges from the systems into flood waters and they must not be subject to impairment or contamination during times of flooding. Any sewage treatment system designed in accordance with the state's current statewide standards for on-site sewage treatment systems is considered to be in compliance with this Section.

Sec. 117-188 Manufactured Homes, Manufactured Home Parks, and Recreational Vehicles.

- (a) **Manufactured Homes.** New manufactured home parks and expansions to existing manufactured home parks are prohibited in any floodplain district. For existing manufactured home parks or lots of record located in a floodplain district, the placement of new or replacement manufactured homes will be treated as a new structure and are subject to the following requirements:
  - (1) Placement or replacement of manufactured home units is prohibited in the Floodway District.
  - (2) If allowed in the Flood Fringe District, placement or replacement of manufactured home units is subject to the requirements of Section 117-184 and the following standards.
    - a. New and replacement manufactured homes must be elevated in compliance with Section 117-184 and must be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system that resists flotation, collapse and lateral movement. Methods of anchoring may include, but are not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors. This requirement is in addition to applicable state or local anchoring requirements for resisting wind forces.
    - b. New or replacement manufactured homes in existing manufactured home parks must meet the vehicular access requirements for subdivisions in 117-186 (a)(2).
- (b) **Recreational Vehicles.** New recreational vehicle parks or campgrounds and expansions to existing recreational vehicle parks or campgrounds are prohibited in any floodplain district. Placement of recreational vehicles in existing recreational vehicle parks or campgrounds in the floodplain must meet the exemption criteria below or be treated as new structures meeting the requirements of this ordinance.

- (1) Recreational vehicles are exempt from the provisions of this Section if they are placed in any of the following areas and meet the criteria listed in 117-188 (2):
  - a. Individual lots or parcels of record.
  - b. Existing commercial recreational vehicle parks or campgrounds.
  - c. Existing condominium-type associations.
- (2) Criteria for Exempt Recreational Vehicles:
  - a. The vehicle must have a current license required for highway use.
  - b. The vehicle must be highway ready, meaning on wheels or the internal jacking system, attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities commonly used in campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks.
  - c. No permanent structural type additions may be attached to the vehicle.
  - d. The vehicle and associated use must be permissible in any pre-existing, underlying zoning district.
  - e. Accessory structures are not permitted within the Floodway District. Any accessory structure in the Flood Fringe District must be constructed of flood-resistant materials and be securely anchored, meeting the requirements applicable to manufactured homes in this Section.
- (3) Recreational vehicles that are exempt in 117-188 (2) lose this exemption when development occurs on the site exceeding \$500.00 for an accessory structure such as a garage or storage building. The recreational vehicle and all accessory structures will then be treated as new structures subject to the elevation and floodproofing requirements of Section 117-184. No development or improvement on the parcel or attachment to the recreational vehicle is allowed that would hinder the removal of the vehicle should flooding occur.

#### Sec. 117-189 Administration

- (a) Zoning Administrator. A Zoning Administrator or other official designated by the City Council must administer and enforce the provisions of this Subdivision.
- (b) Permit Requirements.
  - (1) Permit Required. A permit must be obtained from the Zoning Administrator prior to conducting the following activities:
    - a. The erection, addition, modification, rehabilitation, or alteration of any building, structure, or portion thereof. Normal maintenance and repair also requires a permit if such work, separately or in conjunction with other planned work, constitutes a substantial improvement as defined in Section 117-1.
    - b. The use or change of use of a building, structure, or land.
    - c. The construction of a dam, fence, or on-site septic system. A Farm Fence, as defined in 117-1, would require a Zoning Permit but is not considered a structure when administering this Subdivision.
    - d. The change or extension of a nonconforming use.
    - e. The repair of a structure that has been damaged by flood, fire, tornado, or any other source.
    - f. The placement of fill, excavation of materials, or the storage of materials or equipment within the floodplain.
    - g. Relocation or alteration of a watercourse - including new or replacement culverts and bridges), unless a public waters work permit has been applied for.
  - (2) Application for Permit. Permit applications must be submitted to the Zoning Administrator on forms provided by the Zoning Administrator. The permit application must include the following as applicable:
    - a. A scaled site plan showing all pertinent dimensions, existing or proposed buildings, structures, and significant natural features having an influence on the permit.
    - b. Location of fill or storage of materials in relation to the stream channel.

- c. Copies of any required municipal, county, state or federal permits or approvals.
  - d. Other relevant information requested by the Zoning Administrator as necessary to properly evaluate the permit application.
- (3) Certificate of Zoning Compliance for a New, Altered, or Nonconforming Use. No building, land or structure may be occupied or used in any manner until a certificate of zoning compliance has been issued by the Zoning Administrator stating that the use of the building or land conforms to the requirements of this ordinance.
  - (4) Certification. The applicant is required to submit certification by a registered professional engineer, registered architect, or registered land surveyor that the finished fill and building elevations were accomplished in compliance with the provisions of this ordinance. Floodproofing measures must be certified by a registered professional engineer or registered architect.
  - (5) Record of First Floor Elevation. The Zoning Administrator must maintain a record of the elevation of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new structures and alterations or additions to existing structures in the floodplain. The Zoning Administrator must also maintain a record of the elevation to which structures and alterations or additions to structures are floodproofed.
  - (6) Notifications for Watercourse Alterations. Before authorizing any alteration or relocation of a river or stream, the Zoning Administrator must notify adjacent communities. If the applicant has applied for a permit to work in public waters pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 103G.245, this will suffice as adequate notice. A copy of the notification must also be submitted to the Chicago Regional Office of FEMA.
  - (7) Notification to FEMA When Physical Changes Increase or Decrease Base Flood Elevations. As soon as is practicable, but not later than six months after the date such supporting information becomes available, the Zoning Administrator must notify the Chicago Regional Office of FEMA of the changes by submitting a copy of the relevant technical or scientific data.
- (c) Variances.
- (1) Variance Applications. An application for a variance to the provisions of this Subdivision will be processed and reviewed in accordance with applicable state statutes and Section 117-53.
  - (2) Adherence to State Floodplain Management Standards. A variance must not allow a use that is not allowed in that district, permit a lower degree of flood protection than the regulatory flood protection elevation for the particular area, or permit standards lower than those required by state law.
  - (3) Additional Variance Criteria. The following additional variance criteria of the Federal Emergency Management Agency must be satisfied:
    - a. Variances must not be issued by a community within any designated regulatory floodway if any increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result.
    - b. Variances may only be issued by a community upon (i) a showing of good and sufficient cause, (ii) a determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship to the applicant, and (iii) a determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances.
    - c. Variances may only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.
  - (4) Flood Insurance Notice. The Zoning Administrator must notify the applicant for a variance that:
    - a. The issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage; and

- b. Such construction below the base or regional flood level increases risks to life and property. Such notification must be maintained with a record of all variance actions.
- (5) General Considerations. The city may consider the following factors in granting variances and imposing conditions on variances and conditional uses in floodplains:
  - a. The potential danger to life and property due to increased flood heights or velocities caused by encroachments.
  - b. The danger that materials may be swept onto other lands or downstream to the injury of others.
  - c. The proposed water supply and sanitation systems, if any, and the ability of these systems to minimize the potential for disease, contamination and unsanitary conditions.
  - d. The susceptibility of any proposed use and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner.
  - e. The importance of the services to be provided by the proposed use to the community.
  - f. The requirements of the facility for a waterfront location.
  - g. The availability of viable alternative locations for the proposed use that are not subject to flooding.
  - h. The compatibility of the proposed use with existing development and development anticipated in the foreseeable future.
  - i. The relationship of the proposed use to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and flood plain management program for the area.
  - j. The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles.
  - k. The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise and sediment transport of the flood waters expected at the site.
- (6) Submittal of Hearing Notices to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Zoning Administrator must submit hearing notices for proposed variances to the DNR sufficiently in advance to provide at least ten days' notice of the hearing. The notice may be sent by electronic mail or U.S. Mail to the respective DNR area hydrologist.
- (7) Submittal of Final Decisions to the DNR. A copy of all decisions granting variances must be forwarded to the DNR within ten days of such action. The notice may be sent by electronic mail or U.S. Mail to the respective DNR area hydrologist.
- (8) Record-Keeping. The Zoning Administrator must maintain a record of all variance actions, including justification for their issuance, and must report such variances in an annual or biennial report to the Administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, when requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(d) Conditional Uses.

- (1) Administrative Review. An application for a conditional use permit under the provisions of this Subdivision will be processed and reviewed in accordance with Section 117-51 of the City Code.
- (2) Factors Used in Decision-Making. In passing upon conditional use applications, the City Council will consider all relevant factors specified in other sections of this Subdivision, and those factors identified in Section 117-189 (c)(5).
- (3) Conditions Attached to Conditional Use Permits. The City Council may attach such conditions to the granting of conditional use permits as it deems necessary to fulfill the purposes of this ordinance. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Modification of waste treatment and water supply facilities.
  - b. Limitations on period of use, occupancy, and operation.
  - c. Imposition of operational controls, sureties, and deed restrictions.
  - d. Requirements for construction of channel modifications, compensatory storage, dikes, levees, and other protective measures.
  - e. Floodproofing measures, in accordance with the MN State Building Code and this Subdivision. The applicant must submit a plan or document certified by a registered

- professional engineer or architect that the floodproofing measures are consistent with the regulatory flood protection elevation and associated flood factors for the particular area.
- (4) Submittal of Hearing Notices to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Zoning Administrator must submit hearing notices for proposed conditional uses to the DNR sufficiently in advance to provide at least ten days' notice of the hearing. The notice may be sent by electronic mail or U.S. Mail to the respective DNR area hydrologist.
  - (5) Submittal of Final Decisions to the DNR. A copy of all decisions granting conditional uses must be forwarded to the DNR within ten days of such action. The notice may be sent by electronic mail or U.S. Mail to the respective DNR area hydrologist.

#### Sec. 117-190 Nonconforming Uses.

- (a) Continuation of Nonconformities. A use, structure, or occupancy of land which was lawful before the passage or amendment of this Subdivision but which is not in conformity with the provisions of this Subdivision may be continued subject to the following conditions. Historic structures, as defined in 117-1, are subject to the provisions of Section 117-190 (a)(1) – (5).
  - (1) A nonconforming use, structure, or occupancy must not be expanded, changed, enlarged, or altered in a way that increases its flood damage potential or degree of obstruction to flood flows except as provided in 117-190 (a)(2) below. Expansion or enlargement of uses, structures or occupancies within the Floodway District is prohibited.
  - (2) Any addition or structural alteration to a nonconforming structure or nonconforming use that would result in increasing its flood damage potential must be protected to the regulatory flood protection elevation in accordance with any of the elevation on fill or floodproofing techniques (i.e., FP-1 thru FP-4 floodproofing classifications) allowable in the MN State Building Code, except as further restricted in 11.13 and 11.17 below.
  - (3) If the cost of all previous and proposed alterations and additions exceeds 50 percent of the market value of any nonconforming structure, then the entire structure must meet the standards of Section 117-183 or 117-184 for new structures depending upon whether the structure is in the Floodway or Flood Fringe District, respectively. The cost of all structural alterations and additions must include all costs such as construction materials and a reasonable cost placed on all manpower or labor.
  - (4) If any nonconforming use, or any use of a nonconforming structure, is discontinued for more than one year, any future use of the premises must conform to this ordinance. The Assessor must notify the Zoning Administrator in writing of instances of nonconformities that have been discontinued for a period of more than one year.
  - (5) If any nonconformity is substantially damaged, as defined in Section 117-1, it may not be reconstructed except in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance. The applicable provisions for establishing new uses or new structures in Section 117-183 or 117-184 will apply depending upon whether the use or structure is in the Floodway or Flood Fringe, respectively.
  - (6) Any substantial improvement, as defined in Section 117-1, to a nonconforming structure requires that the existing structure and any additions must meet the requirements of Section 117-183 or 117-184 for new structures, depending upon whether the structure is in the Floodway or Flood Fringe District.

#### Sec. 117-191 Penalties and Enforcement

- (a) Violation Constitutes a Misdemeanor. Violation of the provisions of this Subdivision or failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with grants of variances or conditional uses) constitute a misdemeanor and will be punishable as defined by law.
- (b) Other Lawful Action. Nothing in this Subdivision restricts the city from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation. If the responsible party does not

appropriately respond to the Zoning Administrator within the specified period of time, each additional day that lapses will constitute an additional violation of this Subdivision and will be prosecuted accordingly.

- (c) Enforcement. In responding to a suspected code violation, the Zoning Administrator and City Council may utilize the full array of enforcement actions available to it including but not limited to prosecution and fines, injunctions, after-the-fact permits, orders for corrective measures or a request to the National Flood Insurance Program for denial of flood insurance availability to the guilty party. The City must act in good faith to enforce these official controls and to correct code violations to the extent possible so as not to jeopardize its eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program.

#### Sec. 117-192 Amendments

- (a) Floodplain Designation – Restrictions on Removal. The floodplain designation on the Official Zoning Map must not be removed from floodplain areas unless it can be shown that the designation is in error or that the area has been filled to or above the elevation of the regulatory flood protection elevation and is contiguous to lands outside the floodplain. Special exceptions to this rule may be permitted by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) if the Commissioner determines that, through other measures, lands are adequately protected for the intended use.
- (b) Amendments Require DNR Approval. All amendments to this Subdivision must be submitted to and approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) prior to adoption. The Commissioner must approve the amendment prior to city approval.
- (c) Map Revisions Require Ordinance Amendments. The floodplain district regulations must be amended to incorporate any revisions by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the floodplain maps adopted in Section 117-181 (c).

### **SECTION 3. SUMMARY**

The following is the official summary of Ordinance #15-15, which has been approved by the City Council of the City of Ramsey as clearly informing the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance.

It is the intent and effect of Ordinance #15-15 to amend Ramsey, Minnesota City Code Section 117-1 (Definitions) and Subdivision III (Floodplain Overlay Districts) to:

- Incorporate additional definitions related to administering the Floodplain Management Program.
- Adopt the Flood Insurance Study for Anoka County and the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, dated December 16, 2015, all prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### **SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE**

The effective date of this Ordinance is thirty (30) days after its passage and publication, subject to City Charter Section 5.07.

Adopted by the Ramsey City Council the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.

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Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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City Clerk

**Introduction Date:**

**Posting Dates:**

**Adoption Date:**

**Publication Date:**

**Effective Date:**