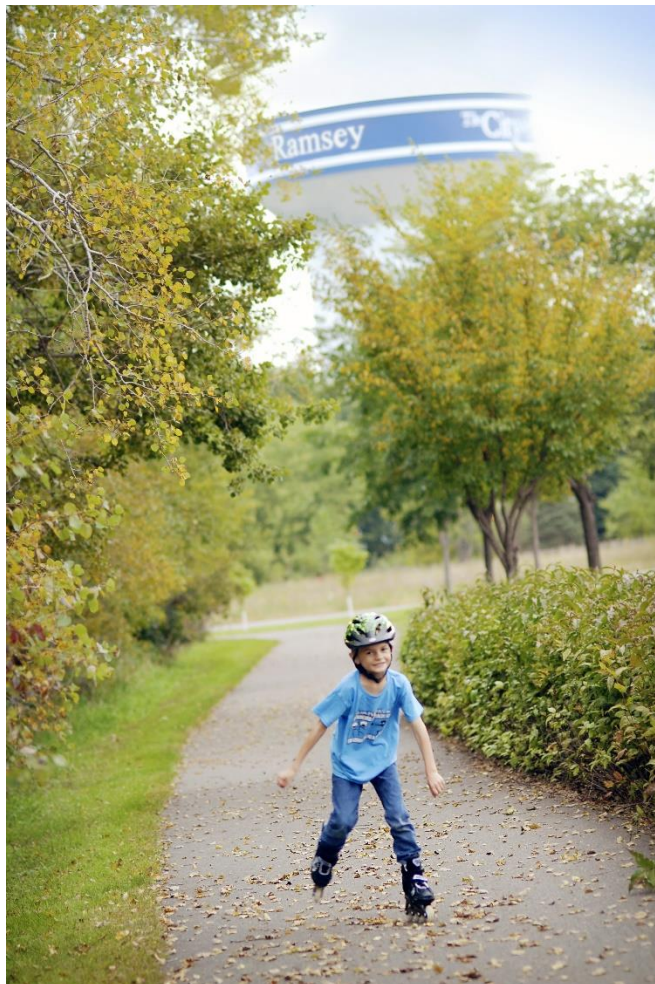
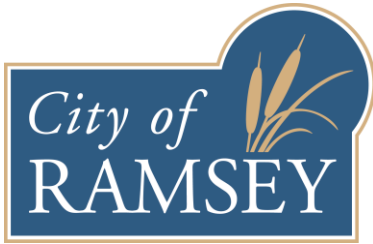


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# City of Ramsey Resilient Communities Project 2017-2018 Community Partner Application





# City of Ramsey Resilient Communities Proposal

## Contents

Community Background ..... 4

Proposal Development Process ..... 4

Primary Project List ..... 6

    Project No. RCP-01: Protecting Our Investments (Asset Management Plan)..... 6

    Project No. RCP-02: Encouraging Small Business Growth and Expansion (Business Incubator Plan) ..... 7

    Project No. RCP-03: Every Voice Matters (Citizen Engagement Plan) ..... 10

    Project No. RCP-04: A Gathering Place for Community (Community Center Plan) ..... 12

    Project No. RCP-05: Highway 10, a Community and Regional Focal Point (Highway 10 Corridor Plan) 14

    Project No. RCP-06: Simple Tools for Preservation (Environmental Policy Board Communications Plan) ..... 16

    Project No. RCP-07: Preventing Damage and Disaster (Floodplain Communications Plan) ..... 18

    Project No. RCP-08: Toolkit for Regional Partners (Funding Opportunity Matrix) ..... 20

    Project No. RCP-09: Connecting Ramsey (Ramsey Greenway Plan) ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

    Project No. RCP-10: Creating Housing Opportunities for All Generations (Housing Plan) ..... 23

    Project No. RCP-11: Integrating Resources into Our Future (Natural Resources Plan) ..... 25

    Project No. RCP-12: Reduce Waste, Reuse Resources (Organics Recycling Plan) ..... 27

    Project No. RCP-13: Creating Destination (Retail Market Analysis) ..... 29

    Project No. RCP-14: Clean Water, Clean Soil (Septic System Communications Plan) ..... 31

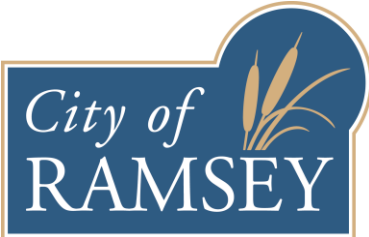
    Project No. RCP-15: A Gathering Within: An Attraction Beyond (The COR Development Plan Update)33

    Project No. RCP-16: Opportunity to Give Back (Volunteer Program Plan) ..... 35

    Project No. RCP-17: Will the Faucet Turn On? (Water Conservation Toolkit) ..... 36

Alternate Projects ..... 37

    Project No. RCP-18: Paying for Future Infrastructure Needs (Development Fee Study) ..... 38




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Project No. RCP-19: Sustaining Team (Employee Development Plan) ..... 38

Project No. RCP-20: Protecting Future: Remembering Today (Highway 10 Official Map Update) ..... 38

Project No. RCP-21: Sustaining our Legacy (Historic Town Hall Plan) ..... 39

Project No. RCP-22: Restoring our Edge (Mississippi Shoreline Plan) ..... 39

Project No. RCP-23: Employee Benefits for the Next Generation (Employee Benefits Plan)..... 39

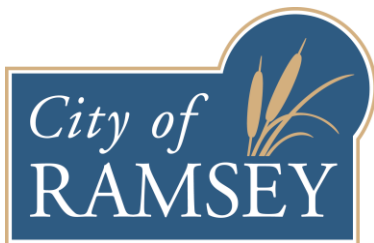
Project No. RCP-24: Creating Identify (ZIP Code Plan)..... 39

Next Steps ..... 41

Demonstration of Support ..... 41

Local Financial Contribution ..... 41

*Continued on Next Page*



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## Community Background

In 2015, the Ramsey population eclipsed 25,000. We are a growing community along Highway 10, with a Rail Station on the Northstar Commuter Rail. We pride ourselves on a balance of economic development and natural resource preservation. Ramsey is bordered by the Mississippi River and Rum River, two (2) key assets for the community. Ramsey is experiencing significant growth, expected to add over 10,000 residents and 5,000 employees over the next twenty (20) years. These growth pressures demonstrate a need for careful foresight in planning and growth management. While we support future growth, it must be balanced with protecting the natural environment that the community holds with much pride.

## Resilient Communities Project Proposal Development Process

The proposal development process really began with the preparation of our Strategic Plan prepared in 2013 and updated in 2016. As your next Community Partner, Ramsey has prepared a resource page for the partnership at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp). There you will find important links and resources for the partner projects proposed below.

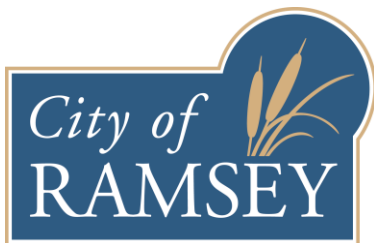
The Strategic Plan is the foundation of the projects proposed below. The Strategic Plan focuses on four (4) broad initiatives.

1. Financial Stability
2. A Connected Community
3. Smart, Citizen-Focused Government
4. An Effective Organization

More detailed information can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/strategicplan](http://www.cityoframsey.com/strategicplan). This document also laid the ground work for three (3) Work Plans pertinent to this application. Three (3) of the City's Advisory Commissions have active work plans to guide our work and were used to select several of the proposed projects. The core plans to support our participation are identified below.

1. Comprehensive Plan
2. Planning Commission Work Plan
3. Economic Development Authority (EDA) Work Plan
4. Environmental Policy Board (EPB) Work Plan

Using these documents as a baseline, the City's Management Team discussed the merits of this opportunity. As our team reviewed the potential benefits, support for the project grew. The City's Planning Division led the initiative through an analysis process, identifying existing projects and priorities that would be a good match for the Program.

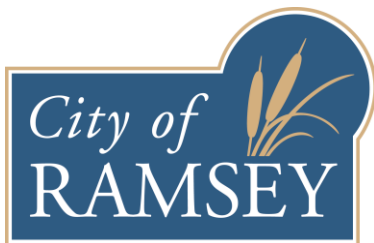


The City Council reviewed the opportunity in late summer of 2016 and authorized Staff to submit a Letter of Intent. The City Council generally saw the value of the Program, and desired to learn more about the potential benefits of being the next Partner Community.

Projects were selected from existing Strategic Plan and Work Plan documents. These plans are the results of a multi-year effort to lay out a vision for the short-term and long-term goals for the community. The benefit of these documents is that they already identify a project lead and desired outcomes and indicators.

Following the Letter of Intent, the City's Management Team and group of Project Leads met to confirm our continued support of being the next Partner Community. We have prepared a list of 17 Primary Projects as our full application. We have also prepared several Alternate Projects that are in the queue for opportunities to swap projects in the event proper matches cannot be made for Primary Projects. All of the Projects Leads identified in the proposal support involvement in the Program and have read the desired commitments for their part. On February 14, the City Council passed a resolution authorizing the final application to the program. The City Council, Planning Commission, Management Team, and Project Leads have all indicated support for participating in the Program.





## Primary Project List

Project No. RCP-01: Protecting Our Investments  
(Asset Management Plan)

Project Lead:

Bruce Westby, City Engineer  
7550 Sunwood Dr NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303  
763-433-9825  
[bwestby@cityoframsey.com](mailto:bwestby@cityoframsey.com)



## Project Description

As the community continues to grow, so do the number of assets of the community. Like ensuring regular maintenance of personal vehicles, regular maintenance of these community assets is important to long term sustainability. This is most prominently illustrated in the City's Street Maintenance Program. The City is entering an era of significant street reconstruction. Better understanding the condition of assets such as this is a critical financial planning and quality tool.

As a part of this project, the City desires to pilot a Public Tree Inventory. Over the last decade or so, the City has begun encouraging planting boulevard/street trees as part of new development. As our street tree population grows, both physiologically and in actual number of trees, we are in need of an inventory to manage this often overlooked community asset. A completed inventory would allow the City to utilize tools such as 'i-tree' to inform and educate both the public and policy makers on both the environmental and financial benefits street trees provide.

## Policy Analysis

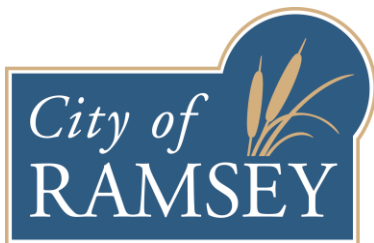
- How can our community best manage our existing and planned assets to ensure maximum value and return on investment?
- How does proper management of these assets advance our goals for sustainability and resiliency?
- Demonstrate the benefits of landscaping plans in the public realm and the need for a management plan to protect these resources from threats such as Emerald Ash Borer and Oak Wilt.

## Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables created by the Partnership will be used to select an approach/system for long term asset management. The deliverables will also be used to create a community forestry plan.

## Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

Sustainability and Resiliency goals include, but are not limited to the following topics.



- 
- Tree Preservation
  - Stormwater Management
  - Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality
  - Growth Management

#### Existing Plans and Data

The following documents will be utilized as guiding documents for the Project and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

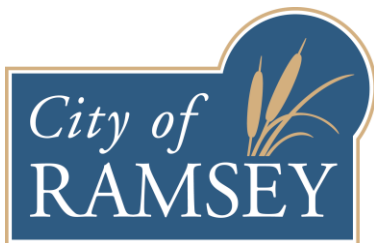
- Strategic Plan
- Comprehensive Plan
- Environmental Policy Board (EPB) Work Plan
- Natural Resources Inventory

#### Potential Community Partners

**Anoka Conservation District.** The Anoka Conservation District has been a long term partner with our community in inventorying and identifying strategies for protection of key assets. The organization will be used to review feasibility of identified strategies of managing key ecological assets.

**Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO).** The LRRWMO will be utilized in the same capacity of the Anoka Conservation District as identified above.

*Continued on Next Page.*



## Project No. RCP-02: Encouraging Small Business Growth and Expansion (Business Incubator Plan)

### Project Lead:

Patrick Brama, Assistant City Administrator/Economic Development Manager  
 7550 Sunwood Dr NW  
 Ramsey, MN 55303  
 763-433-9868  
[pbrama@cityoframsey.com](mailto:pbrama@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The City continues to have a successful business retention and expansion program. Our economic development success has been focused on small-business growth and expansion. The City looks to capitalize on this success and create new and exciting opportunities for small businesses to get their initial start through business-friendly policies, financial incentives, and physical space.

### Policy Analysis

- How can we build on our success to foster small business growth from within our community including, but not limited to business incubators and home occupations?
- What community-led initiatives have been successful in other examples that would be able to be implemented in our community?
- What are existing models for business incubators, both public and private, exist for us to consider?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables will be used to create goals, strategies, and implementation steps in our Comprehensive Plan to facilitate a Business Incubator Policy. Action steps include the creation of a more detailed Business Incubator Plan and Pro-Forma for consideration by City Council.

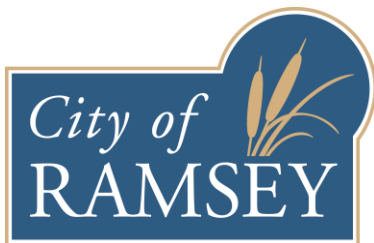
### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

Sustainability and Resiliency goals include, but are not limited to the topics below.

- Safe and thriving business districts
- Connectivity and business development
- Promoting equitable economic development

### Existing Plans and Data

The following documents will be utilized as guiding documents for the Project and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).



- 
- Strategic Plan
  - Planning Commission Work Plan
  - EDA Work Plan

#### Potential Community Partners

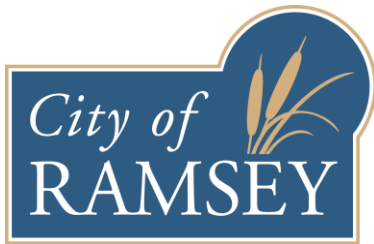
**Anoka County Workforce Center.** The Anoka County Workforce Center presents an excellent opportunity to better explore workforce and employment needs for the area. The project will explore opportunities to not only better understand employer needs in order to execute this endeavor, but also the employee needs and opportunities.

**Anoka Ramsey Community College/Anoka Technical College.** Similar to the Anoka County Workforce Center, Anoka Ramsey Community College/Anoka Technical College represents an opportunity to explore employer and employee needs and opportunities as well as existing strategies. Mr. Kent Hanson, Ph.D. is also the President of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce and presents an excellent opportunity.

**Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce.** The Chamber of Commerce present a key opportunity to better understand strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in implementing a business incubator policies.

**Anoka County Community Development Department/Anoka County Open for Business Program.** Anoka County provides a number of economic development resources that will be valuable in data collection, policy analysis, and innovative approaches. The Open for Business Program is specifically geared towards small business growth.

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## Project No. RCP-03: Every Voice Matters (Citizen Engagement Plan)

Project Lead:

Tim Gladhill, Community Development Director  
 7550 Sunwood Dr NW  
 Ramsey, MN 55303  
 763-433-9826 (direct and cell)  
[tgladhill@cityoframsey.com](mailto:tgladhill@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

In 2006, the City embarked on a major overhaul of how it approached policy analysis and public engagement through a grass roots effort known as Ramsey3. Since then, the City has refined its approach, focusing on natural and organic conversations through existing events, gatherings, and neighborhood focus. The City looks for assistance finalizing this citizen engagement strategy in all policy analysis, not simply land use policy, and seeks assistance with its execution.

The City has had much success in the improvement in the conversations with our residents, especially around topics related to land use planning and street reconstruction. The community desires to formalize these strategies and approaches.

### Policy Analysis

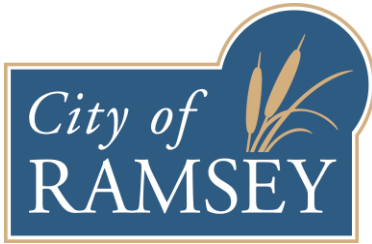
- What strategies exist at each scale of public engagement to ensure all who desire to have a voice in the decision-making process have an opportunity to do so?
- How can we best capitalize on existing conversations with the community such as community events?
- Should there be different strategies for the policy type (land use compared to street reconstruction for example)?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables will be used to foster development off all teams within City Staff on strategies to better involve our residents in key policy decisions in an efficient manner. This will include demonstrating the importance of early involvement and the benefit in the investment in time and resources in taking a more collaborative approach. This project will provide a document that can be referenced in a consistent manner and provide transparency with our public on how we will involve the public in the decision making process.

### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

Sustainability and Resiliency goals include, but are not limited to the topics below.



- Enhancing public participation opportunities
- Smart, Citizen Focused Government

#### Existing Plans and Data

The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rfp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rfp).

- Community Engagement Framework
- Comprehensive Plan Update Work Plan
- Strategic Plan

#### Potential Community Partners

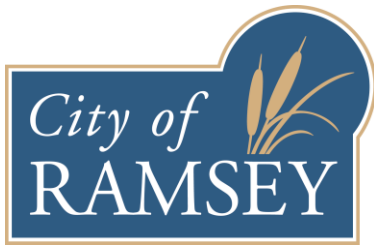
**Neighborhood Associations.** Neighborhood associations have been one of the most effective engagement tools for community dialogue. These are organized and structured entities that allow a point of contact for a larger neighborhood. We will use these associations to gather ideas on how to best engage their members and discuss ideas and alternatives.

**Happy Days Committee.** The Happy Days Committee plans and implements our largest annual celebration each September. This is the community's best opportunity to connect with its residents. We will use this committee to develop plans for 'pop-up' meetings and plan to maximize our investment in using this event to explore input on key policy initiatives.

**Spring Business Expo Committee.** Similar to Happy Days, the Spring Business Expo is the second largest Annual Event for the community. This committee will be used similar to the Happy Days Committee.

**Ramsey Foundation/The Draw Summer Event Series.** The Ramsey Foundation plans and executes a weekly community event (Farmer's Market and Community Concert) in the summer months. Similar to the Happy Days and Spring Business Expo events, this is a key opportunity to connect with our residents in a meaningful manner. The City desires to maximize this event for public participation.

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## Project No. RCP-04: A Gathering Place for Community (Community Center Plan)

### Project Lead:

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Development Manager  
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### Project Description

The community continues to desire a community space to gather year round. Within The COR, the City has set aside a large area for a large community-based user such as a community recreation center or theater. The City needs assistance marketing this asset and building successful and innovative strategies to make this a reality.

### Policy Analysis

- How do we explore the recreation needs of our community that could be met with a community center?
- Given opportunities that exist in proximity to Ramsey, what scale of a community-based asset would be appropriate for our community?
- What opportunities and threats exist in terms of the financial stability of the community when implementing this type of facility?

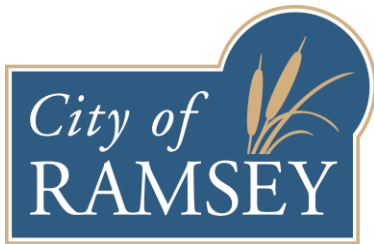
### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables will be utilized to create a broader Community Center Plan and help guide the community through an engagement process to identified desired components and opportunities for partnerships. The City has been approached by a potential fitness center, but that opportunity would only provide a portion of the desired amenities. The information collected through this process will help overlay community expectations with offerings from a private provider.

### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

Sustainability and Resiliency goals include, but are not limited to the topics below.

- Community Livability
- Robust recreational offerings
- Fostering active living – Comprehensive Plan



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#### Existing Plans and Data

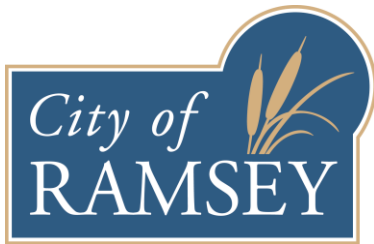
The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

- Strategic Plan
- Previous Community Center Schematics
- Flagship Fitness Concept

#### Potential Community Partners

**Flagship Fitness.** Flagship Fitness has approached the City with a potential fitness center. This group will be used to help engage the public on desired offerings in order to overlay with those offerings that could be provided by Flagship Fitness. Their participation will benefit the project by providing important market insight and potentials for public/private partnerships.

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## Project No. RCP-05: Highway 10, a Community and Regional Focal Point (Highway 10 Corridor Plan)

### Project Lead:

Tim Gladhill, Community Development Director  
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 Ramsey, MN 55303  
 763-433-9826 (direct and cell)  
[tgladhill@cityoframsey.com](mailto:tgladhill@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The City's Strategic Plan includes a strategic initiative to improve the image of key corridors. The Highway 10 Corridor Plan is a pilot land use study intended to be appended to our Comprehensive Plan. The Corridor Plan provides a robust strategy that builds from community support to create a positive environment that maximizes land use, maximizes tax base, establishes a proud vision of our community, and has consensus of impacted stakeholders. The City desires to explore sub-districts within the plan, such as gateway districts as users enter and exit our community. The City will be engaging key stakeholders to kick off this initiative. The City is looking for incentives the community can provide to invest in building and site improvements.

### Policy Analysis

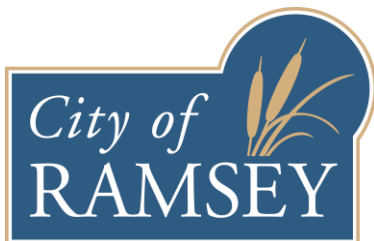
- Based on current visions for future roadway improvements, what are appropriate land uses in the interim and into the future?
- What incentive-based approaches could the City implement to improve the image of this corridor?
- What models of Corridor Plans should be used to accomplish this goal?

### Implementation Plan

The deliverables from this Project will be utilized to complete a Corridor Plan for Highway 10, but also serve as a model for future Corridor Studies for Saint Francis Boulevard (State Highway 47), Nowthen Boulevard (County Road 5), and Armstrong Boulevard (County Road 83).

### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

- **A Connected Community.** The Strategic Plan identifies a broader goal for a connected community, which also has a clear connection to congestion mitigation and air quality. The Strategic Plan also specifically identifies this corridor for a Corridor Study.
- **Walkability.** An important component of the Highway 10 Corridor Study should be safe and efficient pedestrian connectivity. Highway 10 and the adjacent freight rail corridor present a significant barrier to pedestrian connectivity.



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#### Existing Plans and Data

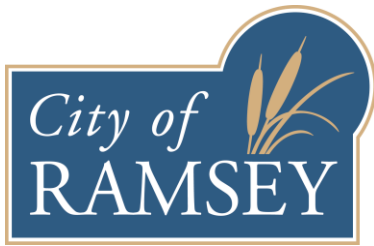
The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

- Strategic Plan
- Comprehensive Plan
- Highway 10 Access Planning Study

#### Potential Community Partners

**Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce.** Any land use plan for this corridor has the potential for significant impacts to our business community. The Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce can provide an important connection to this business community to help identify issues and ideas for solutions.

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## Project No. RCP-06: Simple Tools for Preservation (Environmental Policy Board Communications Plan)

### Project Lead:

Chris Anderson, City Planner  
7550 Sunwood Dr NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303  
763-433-9817  
[canderson@cityoframsey.com](mailto:canderson@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The City's Environmental Policy Board desires to develop a comprehensive outreach program across multiple mediums that focuses on environmentally related issues to educate and inform the community. Communications would address a range of topics such as water (conservation, groundwater, stormwater, and how all three interact), invasive species (aquatic and terrestrial), waste reduction, and community forestry.

### Policy Analysis

- How do we best communicate the value to community and individual of resource protection?
- How do we best prioritize high value resources?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables from this project will be utilized to create resources to inform policy decisions and communicate options to our community on feasible means to improve the protection of our valued ecological resources. The City has a draft Communications Plan that outlines the outlets and key audiences for these types of messages. The project will identify how to best utilize our City Newsletter, social media, community television, and website.

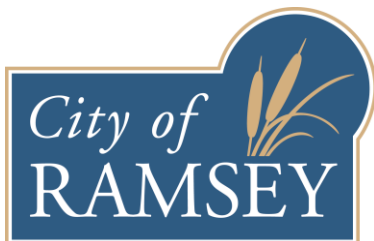
### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

- A Clean Environment. The Strategic Plan identifies an initiative to maintain a clean environment. These goals are also reflected in our Comprehensive Plan.
- Environmental Health. Many of the tactics of the Strategic Plan are aimed at balancing future growth goals with a desire to protect high-quality ecological resources.

### Existing Plans and Data

The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

- Strategic Plan
- Comprehensive Plan

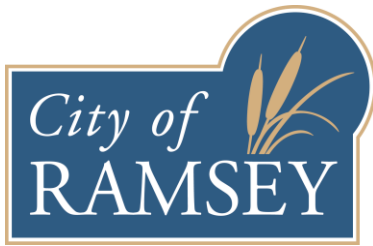


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- Environmental Policy Board (EPB) Work Plan

Potential Community Partners

Anoka Conservation District. The City will invite the Anoka Conservation District to partner on this project. This organization has helped the community through a number of studies, inventories, and capital projects. This organization will help brainstorm ideas and explore feasibility of recommended strategies.

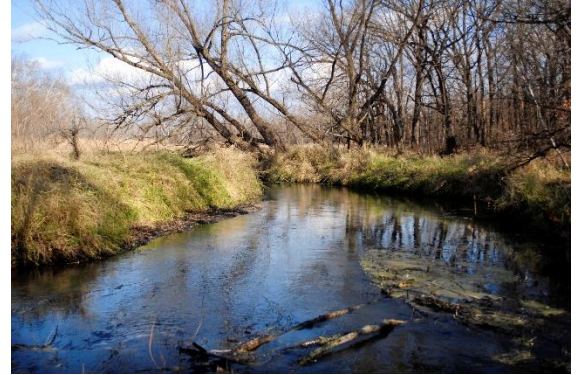
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## Project No. RCP-07: Preventing Damage and Disaster (Floodplain Communications Plan)

### Project Lead:

Bruce Westby, City Engineer  
7550 Sunwood Dr NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303  
763-433-9825  
[bwestby@cityoframsey.com](mailto:bwestby@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The City is blessed to have an abundance of water-based ecological resources. A primary goal of our Comprehensive Plan is to balance our unique natural resources with future development activity. The City sees an opportunity to collaborate with the community as a whole to provide resources for homeowners and business owners to recognize the value of these resources and ways to manage and protect them.

The City's Flood Insurance Rate Maps, which were just updated by FEMA in December of 2015, still include a number of areas identified as floodplain but without detailed analyses to provide a Base Flood Elevation (BFE). This has created some difficulty for various property owners, and the City desires to complete modelling of these areas to be able to provide at least an estimated BFE that could be used as part of a Letter of Map Amendments and Revisions for application to FEMA.

### Policy Analysis

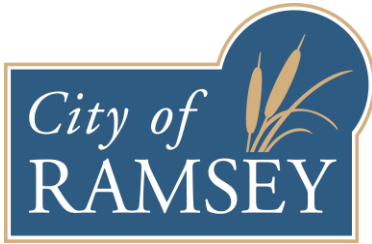
- What strategies exist that are easy for home owners and business owners to implement on their own?
- What programs exist for communities to manage on a larger scale?
- As we update our Comprehensive Plan, what strategies, tools, and plans should we be considering?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables from this project will be utilized to identify tools that will assist homeowners in identifying floodplain boundaries and communicate how to protect floodplains and structures from flood damage.

### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

- Environmental Health. This project will help achieve a goal to continue successful environmental health by protecting the health of floodplains as well as dwellings and buildings.
- Stormwater Management. There is a close link between stormwater management and floodplain management. The City has several examples of the negative outcome of a lack of awareness and



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development standards to economic impacts to home owners and business owners as well as the floodplain itself.

#### Existing Plans and Data

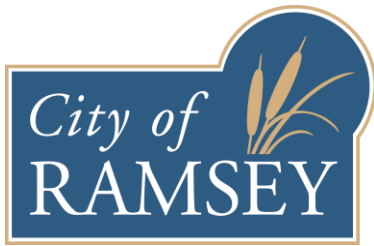
The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

- Natural Resources Inventory
- Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) Third Generation Plan
- FEMA Floodplain Data

#### Potential Community Partners

**Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO).** The LRRWMO is a key partner in water resource planning. Any policy initiative or communication activity will be reviewed by this organization. This organization is also in the process of beginning an update to their Comprehensive Plan (to be known as the Fourth Generation Plan).

*Continued on Next Page.*



## Project No. RCP-08: Toolkit for Regional Partners (Funding Opportunity Matrix)

Project Lead:

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7550 Sunwood Dr NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303  
763-433-9845  
[kulrich@cityoframsey.com](mailto:kulrich@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The City's Strategic Plan includes an initiative to explore all potential funding partners. Many of our goals are regional in scale, whether it's transportation improvements or water supply. The City often finds itself scrambling putting together funding requests, with moments left. The City would like to better plan for appropriate funding sources that meet our needs and key goals.

### Policy Analysis

- What funding partners exist that would be good partners in achieving our future vision?
- How can we better prepare for conversations and requests with these funding partners?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables will be used to connect our various policy initiatives with potential financial resources to help advance these initiatives.

### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

This project touches on each of the policy/project initiatives of the Strategic Plan and associated work plans. The specific impacts are contained within the individual projects.

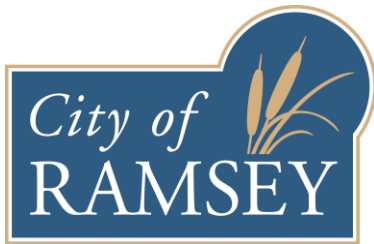
### Existing Plans and Data

This project touches on each of the policy/project initiatives of the Strategic Plan and associated work plans. Existing plans and data to support this project can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

### Potential Community Partners

This project touches on each of the policy/project initiatives of the Strategic Plan and associated work plans. The potential community partners are described in the individual projects.

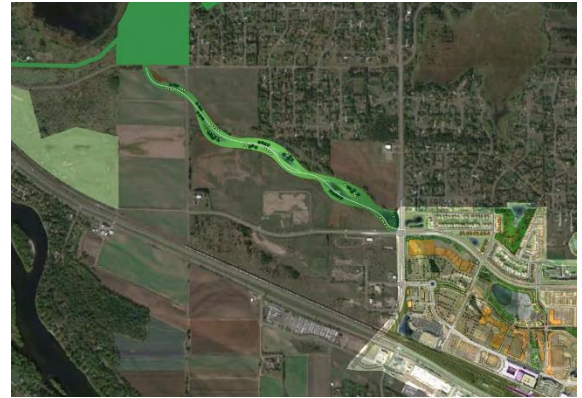
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## Project No. RCP-09: Connecting Ramsey (City-wide Greenway Plan)

### Project Lead:

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 7550 Sunwood Drive NW  
 Ramsey, MN 55303  
 763-433-9853  
[mrivblood@cityoframsey.com](mailto:mrivblood@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The City has identified several key ecological and recreation corridors that are prime to be connected, integrated, and receive public protection. The broader vision, referred to as the 'Circle of Ramsey' duals key ecological corridors with connections to our larger community parks. This concept has helped focus our Park Dedication discussion and identify priority trails for construction within the City. Within this broader greenway vision, is the Lake Itasca Greenway. This corridor connects two of our community focal points, Lake Itasca (and the adjacent community park) and The COR, Ramsey's mixed-use destination for the community.

### Policy Analysis

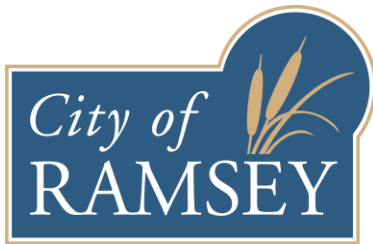
- How can our Comprehensive Plan best reflect this priority and take an incentive-based approach, versus a regulatory approach?
- How can the City best communicate the value of integrating these resources within future development, rather than an afterthought (or losing opportunities and connectivity)?
- Are there ways that the City can monetize this value?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables from this project will be development of a City-wide Greenway Plan and a specific Lake Itasca Greenway Plan. These will become a focal points within the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. This has been identified as a priority for our Commissions, City Council and general public.

### Sustainability and Resiliency Notes

- **Stormwater Management.** The Lake Itasca Greenway Plan is associated with naturally occurring wetlands that are poised to be of a treatment train of a stormwater management system. Elevating this asset as part of a broader greenway plan enhances the protection of this resource and allows for shared use (recreation opportunities).
- **Natural Resource Preservation.** Another value of the Greenway plan will be establishing a system of ecological connectivity—providing habitat for more species of organisms, and fostering resiliency by maintaining greater genetic diversity.



- Drinking Water. The City of Ramsey is almost entirely within the Anoka Sand Plain, and the greenway proposed northwest of The COR is the primary infiltration and recharge area for 6 of the City's 8 municipal water wells.
- A Connected Community. The City's existing recreation planning documents identifies a city-wide-greenway plan (Circle of Ramsey) that connects all of our larger community parks with other destinations (retail and residential neighborhoods).

#### Existing Plans and Data

The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

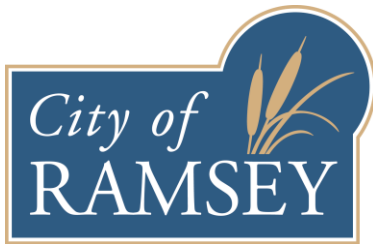
- Natural Resource Plan
- Conceptual Greenway Plan
- Comprehensive Plan – Parks and Recreation Chapter

#### Potential Partnerships

Many different partnerships are possible, however, the 'best fit' may be the [Anoka Sandplain Partnership](#) (with the Nature Conservancy). The Anoka Sandplain Partnership is a coalition of 25 conservation stakeholders, led by Great River Greening, with a mission to bring together their collective expertise, resources and connections to advance terrestrial and freshwater resource conservation in this ecological region.

Their 'mission' is to; maintain the health of this unique ecosystem and help restore what is damaged; accordingly, the Anoka Sandplain Partnership has identified two critical needs: Protect the water quality and supply and Create good habitat and beautiful parks.





## Project No. RCP-10: Creating Housing Opportunities for All Generations (Housing Plan)

### Project Lead:

Tim Gladhill, Community Development Director  
 7550 Sunwood Dr NW  
 Ramsey, MN 55303  
 763-433-9826 (direct and cell)  
[tgladhill@cityoframsey.com](mailto:tgladhill@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The City's housing plan was last updated in 2008. Since then, the City's housing goals have had great successes, especially in terms of workforce housing and senior housing. Unfortunately, public support for many of our housing goals continues to drop. The City desires to update its housing plan, as well as a communication strategy about the needs for various housing types and the value they add to our community, especially in terms of economic development.

### Policy Analysis

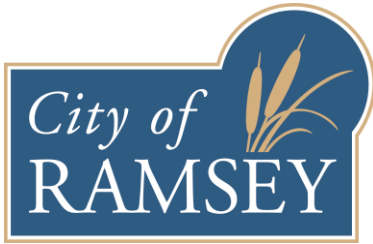
- What styles of housing are underrepresented and would add value to the community?
- What land use strategies exist to encourage our housing goal?
- What financial tools and strategies exist to encourage our housing goals?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables from this project will help in the completion of a Housing Plan that meets the minimum requirements of the Metropolitan Council Regional Framework. The data will also be used to update the City's Housing Assistance Policy to re-prioritize housing goals and identify the tools that are acceptable to our community to advance these goals.

### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

- **Safe and Thriving Neighborhoods.** A key initiative of our Strategic Plan is the continued focus on safe and thriving neighborhoods. Our Comprehensive Plan lays out a goal to create a housing inventory that provides an option for all of our residents throughout the spectrum of their housing needs without ever leaving Ramsey. Contained within this initiative are tactics to increase housing density, redevelop underutilized land, and engage underserved populations. A recent successful endeavor was to connect people and resources in the Oak Terrace Estates manufactured home community.
- **Lifecycle Housing and Walkability.** One housing option identified by our community, but underrepresented in our housing stock is options for our aging community without needing to



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move into apartment living. Specifically, we desire to look at single-family options with one-level living with walkable connections to important destinations.

#### Existing Plans and Data

The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

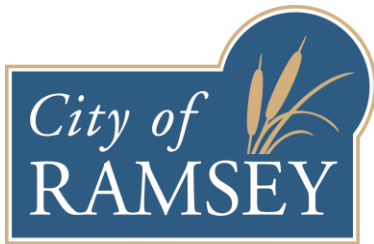
- Comprehensive Plan – Housing Chapter
- Housing Assistance Policy

#### Potential Community Partners

**HOME Line.** Home Line advises renters throughout Minnesota through a free tenant hotline. This group helped the community navigate an update and expansion of our Rental License Program. The City will invite this organization to review the content of the update to the Housing Plan and Housing Assistance Policy identified above.

**Saint Paul Area Association of Realtors.** This organization also helped the City navigate the update and expansion of the Rental License Program. The City will invite this organization to review the content of the update to the Housing Plan and Housing Assistance Policy identified above.

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## Project No. RCP-11: Integrating Resources into Our Future (Natural Resources Plan)

Project Lead:

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 Ramsey, MN 55303  
 763-433-9817  
[canderson@cityoframsey.com](mailto:canderson@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The City is beginning the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, including the Natural Resources component, and desires to develop innovative strategies to better define how to accomplish our goals. The City desires the Partnership to aide in the preparation of this Chapter. In addition to the Environmental Policy Board's Work Plan, the City adopted a resolution to enhance our support for pollinator-friendly policies, including taking the Mayors for Monarchs Pledge, in order to improve the ecosystem and food system directly tied to the survivability of pollinators. The Partnership will be key to identifying how we take goals to actionable items with true impact.

### Policy Analysis

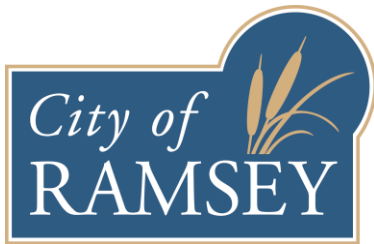
- How can we best communicate the value of resource protection to the community and future land developers?
- How do we best prioritize resources to protect, acknowledging that we do not have the financial resources to protect each individual resource?
- What incentives can we provide aside from regulatory controls to manage our unique natural resources?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables from this project will connect goals and strategies prepared for the Natural Resources Plan and help identify an Implementation Plan and Action Steps for the plan itself.

### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

The Natural Resources Plan is a comprehensive plan that will guide almost every aspect of sustainability and resiliency for the community. All aspects of this topic are on the table and number too many to identify in this application. This project is tied to the City's Strategic Initiative to create a clean environment. For our community, this project creates the most excitement in partnering with the Resilient Communities Project and represents the greatest opportunity for a wide variety of resiliency topics.



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#### Existing Plans and Data

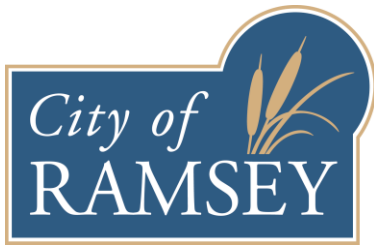
The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

- Strategic Plan
- Comprehensive Plan – Natural Resources Chapter
- Natural Resources Inventory

#### Potential Community Partners

**Anoka Conservation District.** The City has invited the Anoka Conservation District to partner where feasible on this project. This organization has successfully provided numerous resources to our residents and is a trusted partner in conserving our unique natural resources. This organization will be invited to work collaboratively to identify goals, strategies, and implementation plans for the Natural Resources Plan.

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## Project No. RCP-12: Reduce Waste, Reuse Resources (Organics Recycling Plan)

Project Lead:

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### Project Description

The City has a successful curbside recycling program for standard recyclables; however, food and paper waste (organics) constitute the largest component of our waste stream. We would like to research, analyze and implement an optional organics program (whether curbside and/or small scale drop-off) for residents.

### Policy Analysis

- What examples exist locally that can reduce demand on local landfills by capturing organic waste?
- What barriers exist to successful implementation?
- What strategies exist to build capacity and support?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables provided by this Project will be utilized to help the City determine whether or not to consider providing organics recycling as an option for our residents and business community.

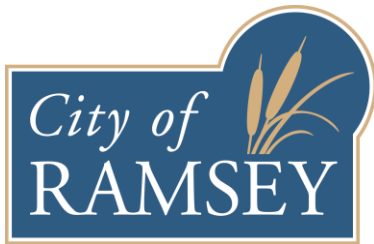
### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

- **Clean Environment.** The goal of exploring this program is to reduce the amount of waste that enters landfills and provide healthy reuse of organic waste. This program has been proven to be successful in many other organizations.
- **Safe and Thriving Neighborhoods.** Solid Waste Management is a planning policy critical to safe and thriving neighborhoods. While this policy may not be on the forefront of visibility, poor solid waste management will quickly decline thriving neighborhoods.

### Existing Plans and Data

The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

- Comprehensive Plan – Natural Resources Chapter
- City Council Discussion – Curbside Recycling Contract Renewal

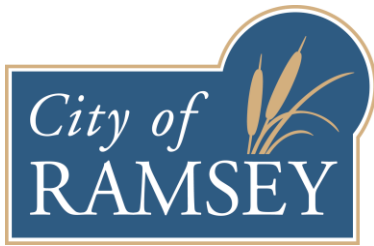


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#### Potential Community Partners

**ACE Solid Waste.** ACE Solid Waste is a solid waste hauler with a base located in Ramsey. The City and ACE Solid Waste currently have a contract for curbside recycling for all residential customers. The revenue source is an enterprise utility charge to all residential properties. The City is in discussions on extending this contract. As part of that discussion, curbside organics recycling is being discussed as an option for our residents. This program would likely only be successful with ACE Solid Waste as a willing partner.

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## Project No. RCP-13: Creating Destination (Retail Market Analysis)

### Project Lead:

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 763-433-9868  
[pbrama@cityoframsey.com](mailto:pbrama@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The City has long had a goal to create destinations for the community that includes places to shop, eat, and entertain. There are several market forces that make this goal challenging. There are areas guided for retail growth, and the City employs financial tools to attract these businesses. However, expectations from our community have fallen short. The City desires to study retail market strategies for two (2) types of market:

1. Traditional Large Format/Big Box Retail
2. Smaller, Destination/Boutique Retail

### Policy Analysis

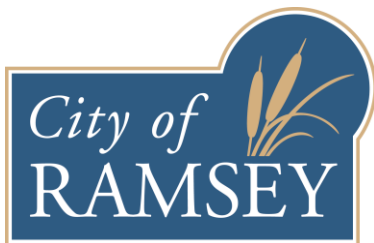
- What types of retailers are likely to be attracted to Ramsey?
- What marketing approaches could the City consider?
- What tools should the community employ that will attract retailers and other destinations to the community, and provide a sustainable business model?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables from this Project will influence our Comprehensive Plan/Future Land Use Map. Our community continues to express a desire for more retail offerings. This desire needs to be balanced with market realities. The findings of this research will also have impacts to the Master Plan for The COR, our nearly 400 acre mixed-use, transit-oriented development.

### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

- Economic Development. Safe and thriving business districts integrated with a clean environment play a key role in our plans for resiliency. Not only do business district play a key role in the tax base that provide resources for resource protection, it's also part of an integrated planning effort that creates a connected community. Our goal is to connect housing and jobs, which has a variety of positive environmental impacts.



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#### Existing Plans and Data

The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

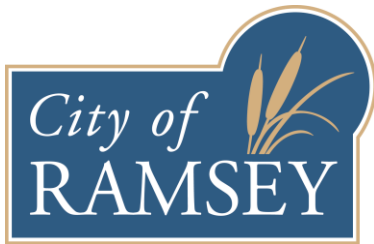
- The COR Development Plan
- The COR Development Plan Update
- Previous Market Studies

#### Potential Community Partners

**Northstar Marketplace.** Northstar Marketplace is the existing retail anchor for The COR. This is a multi-tenant, multi-building retail community.

**PSD, LLC.** PSD, LLC is a major land owner for future retail-guided land within the community. This group will need to be an important partner in the review of data and options generated from the program.

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## Project No. RCP-14: Clean Water, Clean Soil (Septic System Communications Plan)

Project Lead:

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 763-433-9849  
[rjarson@cityoframsey.com](mailto:rjarson@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The historic development pattern of Ramsey began in the 1970s and consisted of single-family lots with private wells and septic systems. The age of these systems are beginning to experience their planned lifespan. If properly maintained, these systems are a completely acceptable means of treating wastewater. If left unmaintained and/or unrepaired, these systems present a threat to ground water quality and public health. Our community helps manage some 4,000 individual and private septic systems. We see an opportunity to improve the lines of communication with septic owners and provide resources to extend the useful life of said systems. Simple strategies exist in our everyday life to protect the integrity of these systems, whether it is laundry, bath, dishes, or restrooms to name a few.

With our community at a crossroads between future development goals and water supply, it is critical for the future health and success of the community to protect groundwater quality to every extent possible.

### Policy Analysis

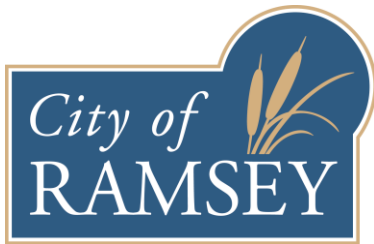
- What simple strategies exist for septic owners to maximize the lifespan of these systems?
- How should our community best communicate these strategies to our residents?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables created by this Project will be used on an ongoing basis to communicate the needs and benefits of proper septic maintenance. The data will also be used to inform future policy review related to waste water treatment and groundwater quality. These are key components of required data for Comprehensive Plan Updates from the Metropolitan Council.

### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

- Groundwater Supply. The City exclusively gets its water supply from groundwater wells, both public and private. There are limited current alternatives. Properly maintained septic systems will



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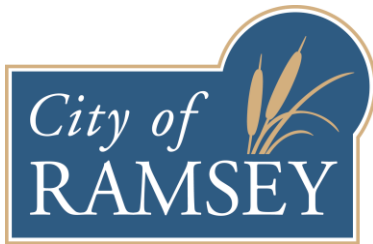
remain a viable option. However, as noted, improper maintenance represents a significant threat to the health of our environment and our community.

#### Existing Plans and Data

The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rfp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rfp).

- Septic System Requirements

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## Project No. RCP-15: A Gathering Within: An Attraction Beyond (The COR Development Plan Update)

Project Lead:

Tim Gladhill, Community Development Director  
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 Ramsey, MN 55303  
 763-433-9826 (direct and cell)  
[tgladhill@cityoframsey.com](mailto:tgladhill@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The City's Comprehensive Plan includes a Development Plan for The COR, a mixed-use, transit-oriented development along the Northstar Commuter Rail Corridor. The City is in the process of updating The COR Development Plan, and is seeking assistance in reconciling a revised/restated vision with infrastructure analysis. The project will also provide an opportunity to analyze cost-benefit ratio and innovative ways to achieve a unique vision. The project will also include opportunities for retail analysis, parking district strategies and plans, architectural design standards, and strategies to integrate public engagement into policy analysis.

### Policy Analysis

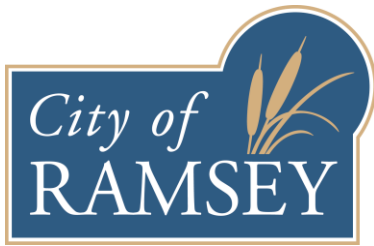
- How do we best integrate public engagement in plan development in a timely fashion?
- Is the current land use plan sustainable from a visionary and economic standpoint?
- How do we best measure market relevance and return on investment?
- How do we best maximize future land use?
- How can we best accommodate incremental improvements without losing the ability for key investments such as parks and parking districts?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables from this Project will be used to reconcile a revised vision laid out by our Planning Commission with the System Plan Analysis and Project Pro-Forma developed by our Economic Development Team. Ultimately, this will lead to a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Zoning Amendment to the Master Plan for The COR.

### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

- **Community Livability.** Community livability is a key component of the plans for The COR. The intent of this development was to create a vibrant destination with a variety of uses within walking



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distance. The plans for The COR represent sound planning practices such as density, maximizing land use, walkability, and connectivity.

- Environmental Health. Existing ecological resources represent the first framework for the plan, not an afterthought. This message to continue to make these resources the focal point of any future updates was clearly communicated by our policy-makers.

#### Existing Plans and Data

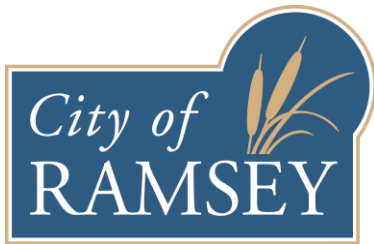
The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

- The COR Development Plan
- The COR Development Plan Update

#### Potential Community Partners

The original Master Plan for this development was created from the most robust and inclusive public engagement process the City has undertaken. The spirit of this effort remains in future steps as well. This Project will represent the best opportunity for students to participate and observe effective public engagement for a community focal point and key policy initiative for the community. All policy makers, property owners, and community members will be invited to participate in the process.

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## Project No. RCP-16: Opportunity to Give Back (Volunteer Program Plan)

Project Lead:

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763-433-9845

[kulrich@cityoframsey.com](mailto:kulrich@cityoframsey.com)



### Project Description

The City participates in a bi-annual statistically-significant citizen survey benchmarked against peer communities. One of the primary findings of this survey continues to be strategies to create additional opportunities for residents to participate in the community, civic engagement, and volunteerism.

### Policy Analysis

- How can we provide opportunities for our community members that want to be engaged in community?
- What programs and services would add value to our community?

### Implementation Plan and Action Steps

The deliverables created by this Project will be utilized to create the City's first Volunteer Program.

### Sustainability and Resiliency Notes

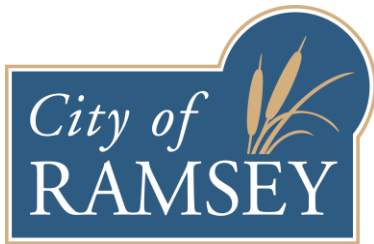
- Enhancing Public Participation Opportunities. A key initiative of our Strategic Plan is a Smart, Citizen-Focused Government. We have made great strides in improving our connection with residents on project review and policy analysis. However, we look for strategies to broaden our opportunities for residents to get involved in community in other ways, not just specific topics.

### Existing Plans and Data

The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

- 2016 Citizen Survey Results

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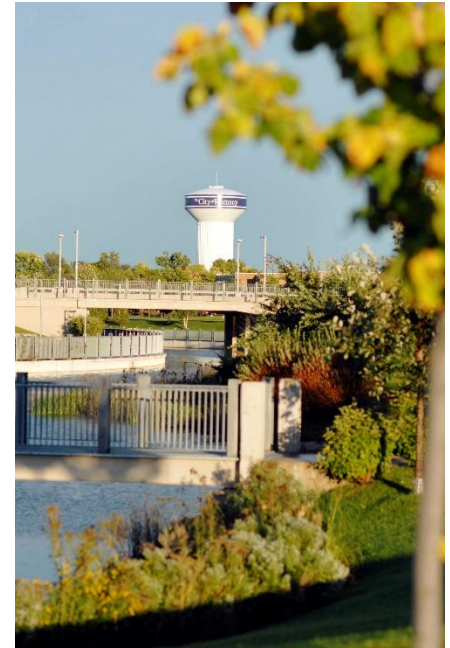
## Project No. RCP-17: Will the Faucet Turn On? (Water Conservation Toolkit)

### Project Lead:

Bruce Westby, City Engineer  
 7550 Sunwood Dr NW  
 Ramsey, MN 55303  
 763-433-9825  
[bwestby@cityoframsey.com](mailto:bwestby@cityoframsey.com)

### Project Description

Our community draws our water supply exclusively through ground water supplies. Our community's soil conditions are very sandy, creating a significant demand for water supply in summer months. Research indicates that our forecasted growth may eventually outpace groundwater supply. Our community continues to explore alternative water supply from the Mississippi River.



Increasing water supply is only one piece of the equation. The City continues to explore opportunities to reduce water demand. The City has created educational and communication pieces. The City has implemented certain land use standards such as required topsoil. These efforts have assisted in reducing water demand, but there are many other opportunities that we would like to explore to provide a menu of options.

### Policy Analysis

- What regulatory controls exist to reduce water demand?
- What incentive-based approaches exist?
- What financial approaches exist?
- When considering implementing new programs and standards, how do we best engage the public in policy analysis before a decision is made?

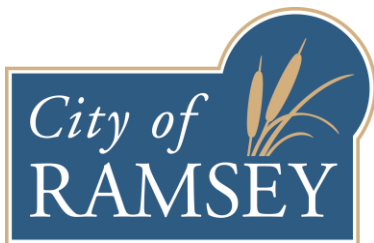
### Sustainability and Resiliency Impacts

- A Clean Environment and Safe/Thriving Neighborhoods/Business Districts. A major threat to the future health and success of our community is the availability of clean water supply.

### Existing Plans and Data

The following plans exist to support this project, and can be found online at [www.cityoframsey.com/rcp](http://www.cityoframsey.com/rcp).

- Comprehensive Plan – Water Resources Chapter

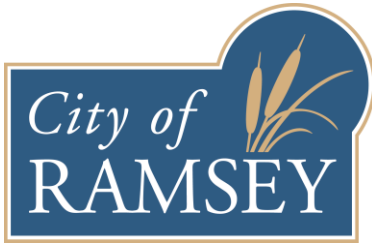


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- Comprehensive Water Supply Plan

Potential Community Partners

**Anoka County Know the Flow.** Anoka County has created an initiative focuses on building capacity for water conservation. This group can provide a good resource as a starting point to begin to tailor initiatives specific to Ramsey.

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## Alternate Projects

This project list is for projects to be able to swap in the event primary projects are not successful in a match. Given that these are alternate project, more detailed descriptions have not been included, but can be expanded if elevated to a primary project in the future at the request of the Resilient Communities Project.

### Project No. RCP-18: Paying for Future Infrastructure Needs (Development Fee Study)

Approximately every five (5) years, the City updates its infrastructure plans and sources of funding. We desire to balance our vision and goals while remaining competitive with our peer communities. This project will provide an opportunity to research area development fees for new development and compare to peer communities.

- How do different types of development compare to peer communities in terms of local rates and charges?
- Should we be looking at different ways to pay for planned infrastructure?
- Should we be looking at innovative ways to reduce costs?

### Project No. RCP-19: Sustaining Team (Employee Development Plan)

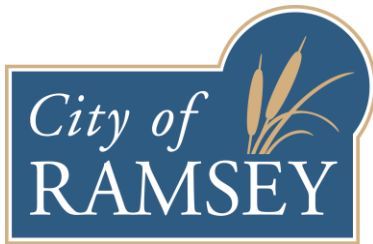
As with many employers, recruiting and retaining talented professionals is an important aspect of our human resource strategy. This project aims to create an employee development plan, and is also an initiative of our Strategic Plan.

- What core values do we expect of our employees?
- What training and development opportunities should we be providing?
- What professional development and volunteer opportunities should we be encouraging?
- What are common steps and advancement opportunities for our team members?

### Project No. RCP-20: Protecting Future: Remembering Today (Highway 10 Official Map Update)

The City is on its third generation of a plan for Highway 10 improvements. As part of this planning processes, land use controls have been put into place to protect future public need from costly investment that would need to be removed at a future date. Unfortunately, the uncertain timing of Highway 10 improvements creates a difficult situations for corridor stakeholders. Stakeholders have commented that these protections make it difficult to invest or sell. The City desires to clarify future vision and timing, and striking a balance between corridor preservation and interim economic realities.

- Are there other tools other than an Official Map to consider?
- Is there a better way to communicate the intent and benefit of corridor preservation?



- Are there other types of support the community could provide to allow for reasonable use of the property until such time the area is needed for public purpose?

#### Project No. RCP-21: Sustaining our Legacy (Historic Town Hall Plan)

The historic Ramsey Town Hall is situated on Trunk Highway 47. It was utilized as Town Hall up until the late 1970s, at which time the community outgrew the facility. The structure has been placed on the historic registry, but has become squeezed by surrounding improvements. The facility currently sits empty. For decades, the community has been attempting to create a plan for the future of this facility.

- What opportunities exist for adaptive reuse?
- What unique ideas exist for using the facility in other locations?
- Are there opportunities for shared use with the surrounding users?
- How do we engage the public to create creative solutions?

#### Project No. RCP-22: Restoring our Edge (Mississippi Shoreline Plan)

The City recently completed a shoreline inventory or soil loss and erosion along the Mississippi River. The results of this study showed significant soil loss and erosion, which equates into loss of property, damage to natural resources, and impacts to water quality.

- Now that the City has quantified the issue, what solutions exist?
- How can we communicate financial assistance opportunities to impacted shoreline owners?
- What partners exist in the solution?

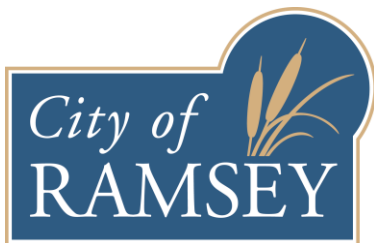
#### Project No. RCP-23: Employee Benefits for the Next Generation (Employee Benefits Plan)

Employee surveys have indicated a desire to explore new opportunities for employee benefits, ranging from health care to paid time off. The City needs a point to commence the discussion. Currently, a lack of understanding prevents us from taking steps forward to consider new options for our team.

- What opportunities for paid time off exist?
- What opportunities for health care plans exist?
- When introducing new options, how do we transition?
- Success is built on integrated and collaborative decision making. How do we best include the team in the policy analysis?

#### Project No. RCP-24: Creating Identity (ZIP Code Plan)

The City currently shares a ZIP Code with the City of Anoka. The Post Office is located in Anoka. The Post Office does not plan on adding new facilities in our community for the time being. However, sharing a post office with Anoka creates a lack of identity for Ramsey, as official mail for Ramsey residents often

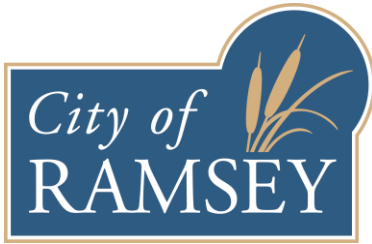


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comes addresses to the City of Anoka. The City has long struggled to build support from the Post Office to obtain our own ZIP Code in order to elevate our own identity.

- What strategies are we not currently thinking about?
- What other strategies exist to elevate our own identity?
- How do we build community support to demonstrate the important of this policy to our community?

*Continued on Next Page.*



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## Next Steps

In discussing the benefits of being the next Partner Community for the Resilient Communities Project, our team set a clear goal that participation must advance an initiative that has already been approved by the City Council. These initiatives have been identified from a clear need for visible policy success. The Strategic Plan identifies clear indicators and metrics of how these initiatives will be used. These projects have been identified as partner project because we have come to a point where we need additional data collection, policy analysis, and/or innovative approaches in order to achieve these goals.

The City Council has clearly identified these projects as priorities and directed appropriate resources in order to accomplish these goals. There is a wide variety of deliverables depending on the project. Some of the outcomes and deliverable include, but are not limited to policy documents, plans, and research data to support future policy analysis.

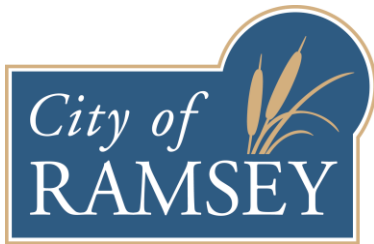
Of key excitement, this year's program cycle lines up well with our Comprehensive Plan Update. While the Update itself will be well underway by the time of the 2017-2018 Academic Year, the timing is actually perfect. This represents a great opportunity to move from goals and strategies to implementation and ensure these strategies are consistent with our guiding goals. In addition, it is anticipated that the Comprehensive Plan Update, a broader land use vision, will include several strategies for smaller area plans and more detailed system plans. For example, the City expects that the Comprehensive Plan Update will transition into more detailed Corridor Studies for three (3) major corridors and node as well as an in depth Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. This Recreation Plan will be the first of its kind for our community.

## Demonstration of Support

The City Council has expressed support the adoption of Resolution #17-02-049 authorizing this Application. The Planning Commission has also expressed their support via consensus.

## Local Financial Contribution

The source of funds for this partnership will be the City's General Fund. The City has already budgeted for these funds within the Professional Services Line Item of the Community Development/Planning Division Budget. Other department's Professional Services Line Items, such as Economic Development and Engineering/Public Works, can be used as necessary to supplement individual projects and demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that these projects experience a useful Implementation Plan. We have chosen to proposed participation in the 10 to 20 project band with a Not to Exceed Amount of \$80,000. We understand that we must be the sole Fiscal Agent for the partnership. We further acknowledge that



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half of the commitment must be paid in lump sum no later than August 31, 2017 and the second lump sum payment paid no later than February 15, 2018.

As noted, this expense is already budgeted in the 2017 General Fund Budget. We will honor our commitment as part of the 2018 General Fund Budget. Our community prides itself in our AA+ Bond Rating and adequate fund balances in reserve accounts along with our Strategic Initiative of Financial Stability.



American Planning Association  
**Minnesota Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

February 15, 2017

RE: Letter of Support for City of Ramsey

On behalf of the American Planning Association, Minnesota Chapter, I am writing a Letter of Support for the City of Ramsey's Application to the Resilient Communities Program. We feel the projects proposed by Ramsey are generally in line with APA MN's policy platform and represent a commitment to the importance of community planning and creating great communities. Furthermore, APA MN supports the initiatives and purpose of the Resilient Communities Program.

For transparency purposes, we do want to identify that our current President, Tim Gladhill, is also the proposed Project Coordinator for Ramsey for this partnership. While Mr. Gladhill requested this Letter of Support, he abstained from discussion and final approval of our Letter of Support.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION, MINNESOTA CHAPTER

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric Weiss'.

Eric Weiss

Vice-President

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