

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Environmental Policy Board (EPB)
Monday, October 16, 2017
6:30 pm
The Lake Itasca Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Citizen Input**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes**
 1. Approve Meeting Minutes Dated August 21, 2017
- 5. Policy Board Business**
 1. Sketch Plan for Villas at North Fork
 2. Sketch Plan for North Fork Meadows
 3. Consider Sketch Plan for Rum River Prairie
 4. Update on Various Natural Resources Based Projects through the Resilient Communities Project (and Check-In with EPB Work Plan)
- 6. Board/Staff Input**
 - Fall Recycling Event
 - Comprehensive Plan Workshop (Oct. 26)
- 7. Adjournment**

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

4. 1.

Meeting Date: 10/16/2017

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Information

Title:

Approve Meeting Minutes Dated August 21, 2017

Action:

Attachments

Meeting Minutes Dated August 21, 2017

Form Review

Inbox

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 10/12/2017

Reviewed By

JoAnn Shaw

Date

10/12/2017 04:14 PM

Started On: 10/11/2017 10:25 AM

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

On Monday, August 21, 2017, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the COR Conference Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Thomas Stodola
 Board Member Colleen Anderson
 Board Member Jane Covart
 Board Member Michael Hiatt
 Board Member Lucas Trossen
 Board Member Michael Valentine

Members Absent: Board Member Reid Bernard

Also Present: City Planner Chris Anderson
 Brian Burandt, Connexus Energy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Stodola called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Covart to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Stodola, Board Member Hiatt, Covart, Anderson, Trossen, and Valentine. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated July 17, 2017

Motion by Board Member Covart and seconded by Board Member Trossen to approve the regular meeting minutes dated July 17, 2017.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Stodola, Board Member Covart, Trossen, Anderson, Covart, Hiatt, Trossen, and Valentine. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard.

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Request for a Zoning Amendment and Conditional Use Permit for the Installation of a Solar Garden at the Property Legally Described as Lot 3, Block 1, River Crossing Addition (Project No. 17-135); Case of Connexus Energy

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that Connexus Energy has applied for a Zoning Amendment and a Conditional Use Permit to construct a new solar garden on the property legally described as Lot 3, Block 1, River Crossing Addition. He stated that the subject property is owned by Anoka County and would be leased by Connexus Energy. He stated that when the City contemplated solar energy systems several years ago, the Zoning Code was amended to consider ground or building mounted solar energy systems as permitted accessory use in any zoning district; however, it did not account for or address the possibility of a solar array being the principal use of a property, as would be the case with the Connexus proposal.

Brian Burandt stated that the proposed site would be 14 times the size of the existing solar array on the Connexus campus and would generate the power supply for 600 homes, noting that energy would remain in Ramsey. He stated that there are tax credits available for the solar system, battery system, and storage system which decrease the project costs. He explained that the midday solar peak and later peak of energy use, the storage system will allow that energy to be stored until the use is needed. He stated that Connexus approached municipalities to determine interest and there are three willing partners with land available through Anoka County, St. Francis, and the National Sports Center. He stated that this would be the largest multi-site community solar array in the midwest. He provided additional details on the proposed sites which would include fencing and pollinator habitat. He stated that they have learned key takeaways from the solar array on the Connexus campus.

Board Member Trossen asked the size of the battery and average lifespan.

Mr. Burandt provided additional details on the size and lifespan of the batteries. He explained how the batteries would be charged and store energy in order to disburse the energy during peak demand times.

Board Member Valentine asked for information on fire safety.

Mr. Burandt provided additional details on the batteries and noted that the batteries are safe and the price of batteries have actually been reduced because of the competition that has been brought to the market. He confirmed that there would be fire suppression as well.

Board Member Covart asked if the members would be offered a buy-in on the project.

Mr. Burandt explained that Connexus is leasing the land through municipalities and the energy will be used to lower the costs to all Connexus customers rather than offering a buy-in. He stated that there is not an issue with glare. He stated that after 25 years the equipment would be removed and the site would be restored for Anoka County to do what they wish with it.

City Planner Anderson stated that he spoke with the solar developer and was assured that the developer would create a decommissioning plan for the removal of the equipment and restoration of the land that would occur after that leased period expires.

Mr. Burandt stated that the storage developer has not yet been named but provided examples of storage containers that could be used in the solar array. He noted that the storage containers would be located on the back side of the swale if you were looking from Highway 10.

City Planner Anderson stated that staff does not have a final Site Plan as that would be contingent on final site work that is being done. He stated that part of the mapping process that was done in 2007 to prepare for the Comprehensive Plan update identified this land as Public/Quasi Public but the re-zoning of the land never occurred. He stated that currently the property is zoned as R-2/medium residential. He stated that staff believes that it would be appropriate to rezone the property as Public/Quasi-Public, especially because the County owns the property. He noted that substations are allowed in that zoning district and while a solar array is not a specified use, it would be similar. He stated that staff would recommend adding a text amendment to the zoning district to allow solar energy systems as a principal use with the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit. He noted that a Conditional Use Permit could then be used to allow the solar array. He stated that this would move forward to the Planning Commission for a public hearing at their September 7th meeting and would then move to the City Council.

Mr. Burandt stated that Connexus originally wanted to have a showcase on their property, as they have 18 acres of land but staff was hesitant and stated that they would support the solar array on another piece of property as they would rather see the land near the Connexus site preserved for a business park.

City Planner Anderson agreed that from an economic development perspective, Ramsey is short on industrial/business park land and therefore the remainder of the Connexus property may be desirable for that purpose. He stated that discussion has brought this idea to the County owned land, which would be a good marriage of the County owned land and the solar array.

Board Member Hiatt asked if there has been any feedback from the residents on Bowers Drive.

Mr. Burandt stated that they have not spoken with the residents in that area yet but would be open to holding a public meeting.

City Planner Anderson stated that if Connexus is interested, staff could open up City Hall earlier for an open house prior to the Planning Commission meeting for residents to ask more questions if desired.

Mr. Burandt stated that he has not heard any negative comments about creating more renewable energy.

Motion by Chairperson Stodola and seconded by Board Member Valentine to recommend approval of a Zoning Amendment to rezone the subject property to Public/Quasi Public and to add solar energy systems as a principal use with the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Stodola, Board Member Valentine, Anderson, Covart, Hiatt, and Trossen. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard.

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Hiatt to recommend approval of a Conditional Use Permit for the installation of a solar energy system on the subject property with contingencies.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Stodola, Board Member Valentine, Hiatt, Anderson, Covart, and Trossen. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Staff Update**

Chairperson Stodola stated that he picked up a compostable kit the previous week and noted that he would recommend it. He stated that he and his wife are really enjoying the process.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that kits are still available. He stated that 41 residents have signed up for the program, 32 of which have picked up their container. He stated that people can sign up online or you can sign up at City Hall and pickup your kit at that time too. He stated that during the summer recycling event he did an audit of the carts at the public works site and everything was extremely clean, except for one regular plastic bag that was used to store someone's smaller compostable bags. He stated that the City is working with Ace Solid Waste on a weekly or bi-weekly picking up of carts to cut down on things that could become a nuisance (smell and maggots) if you choose to have pickup only when the carts are full. He stated that when people sign up for the program they are given the combination for the locks on the bins at the public works drop off location, which ensures that only people in the program have access to the bins and others are not using them to drop off other materials. He explained the items that are included in the kit that residents receive when they sign up for the program.

Board Member Hiatt asked if there would be a potential in the future for Ace to create a separate container that would be picked up curbside.

City Planner Anderson stated that he does see the potential for curbside pickup in the future. He noted that part of the concern is that there are two processing sites on the south side of the metro, so there is a logistics issue with serving the north metro. He noted that Ace does provide that service to commercial businesses (food service) and so the Ramsey materials are measured and then combined with the commercial pickup material for drop off. He noted that the City's pilot program is off to a good start. He stated that the City held the first ever summer recycling event in July, which was a carbon copy of the spring and fall events. He stated that the event was relatively slow compared to the spring events but noted that it was a constant trickle of cars, with 260 vehicles in total. He noted that the total amount of traffic outpaced some of the fall events and noted that he will be interested to see if the additional event impacts the number of vehicles and materials collected during the fall event.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Covart to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
City Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

5. 1.

Meeting Date: 10/16/2017

By: Chris Anderson, Community Development

Information

Title:

Sketch Plan for Villas at North Fork

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to introduce the EPB to a proposed Sketch Plan for the Villas at North Fork. The proposed development is located along the south side of Alpine Drive immediately west of the Riverstone project and directly south of Lake Itasca (the "Subject Property"). More detailed plans, including Landscape and Tree Preservation plans, will be developed and submitted in the coming months as part of a Preliminary Plat package.

The Villas at North Fork is a proposed 100-unit residential development. The project would consist entirely of detached townhomes with a Home Owners Association (HOA) to manage the site. This project would require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for both density and to extend City services (sewer and water). Due to the need for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, a higher standard of review can be applied.

Based on the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) and the City's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), the Subject Property consists entirely of dry grassland and is categorized as an Altered/Non-Native Plant Community (per MLCCS, this is considered a semi-natural community and does not qualify for natural quality ranking). The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) does not identify any wetland on the Subject Property and the City's floodplain maps show the Subject Property as being outside any designated floodplain.

While there are not more detailed plans available (not required until the Preliminary Plat stage), this is an opportunity for the EPB to review the project in general as it relates to natural resources. Items to consider may include recommendations for boulevard trees (rather than front yard trees), retention of trees in the northwest corner of the Subject Property (granted, it is not known what is there in terms of species, size, quantity, or condition), and potential areas for pollinator friendly landscaping.

Funding Source:

All costs associated with this request are the responsibility of the Applicant.

Action:

Based on discussion; no specific action is needed.

Attachments

Site Location Map

Sketch Plan

Form Review

Inbox

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 10/12/2017

Reviewed By

JoAnn Shaw

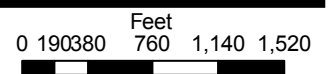
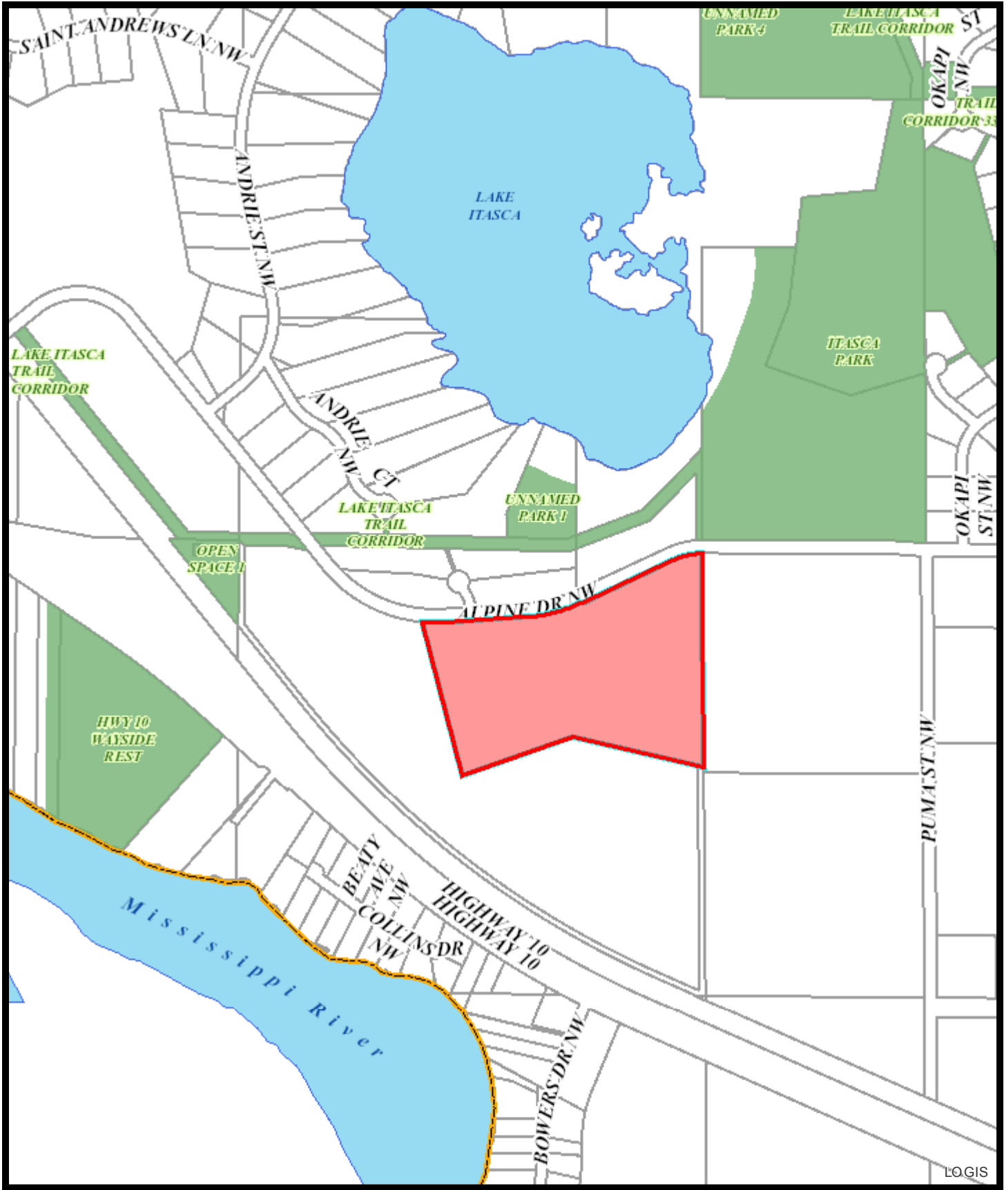
Date

10/12/2017 04:14 PM

Started On: 10/11/2017 12:13 PM

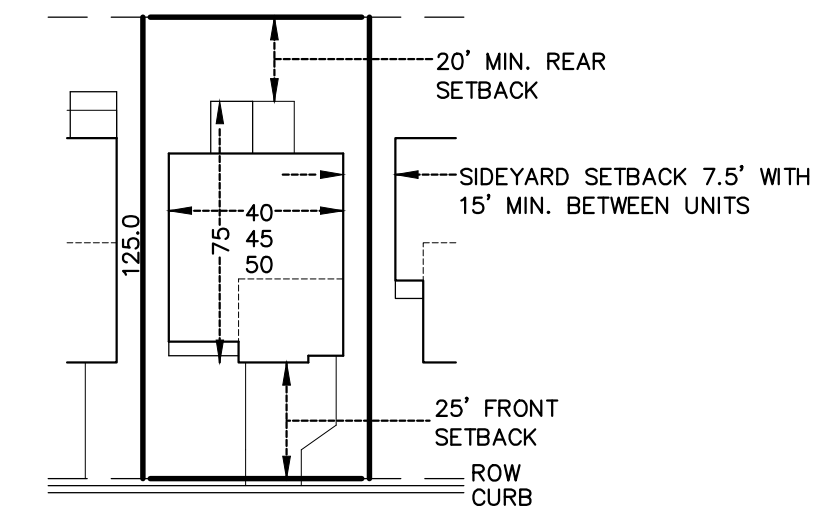
Site Location Map

Villas at Northfork





LOT DETAIL



NOTES

- 1) No field work has been completed at this time.
- 2) Subject property address – South of Alpine Drive NW and 1300 west of Puma Street, Ramsey, MN 55303.
- 3) Topography shown is LIDAR which was provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- 4) No Title Work has been furnished for this survey, property is subject to all easements of record, if any.

SITE DATA

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL BOUNDARY AREA | ±33.5 AC. |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF VILLA LOTS | 100 |
| 65' VILLA LOTS | 36 |
| 60' VILLA LOTS | 35 |
| 55' VILLA LOTS | 29 |

NET DENSITY: 3.88 LOTS/AC
(EXCLUDES ROW 5.13 AC.)

LOT SETBACK DATA

| | |
|---------|---------|
| FRONT: | 25 FT. |
| SIDE: | 7.5 FT. |
| REAR: | 20 FT. |
| CORNER: | 20 FT. |

REVISIONS

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |
| 6. | |

DRAWN BY: C#
ISSUE DATE: 09/12/17
FILE NO: XXX

Base Data: 09/12/17; Figures: 09/21 - 09/20/2017; north fork villas at north fork villas at north fork villas at north fork villas at north fork

Meeting Date: 10/16/2017

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Information

Title:

Sketch Plan for North Fork Meadows

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to introduce the EPB to a proposed Sketch Plan for North Fork Meadows. The proposed development is located along the south side of Alpine Drive immediately east of Puma Street (the "Subject Property"), adjacent to the Riverstone project. More detailed plans, including Landscape and Tree Preservation plans, will be developed and submitted in the coming months as part of a Preliminary Plat package.

North Fork Meadows is a proposed 97-unit residential development consisting of a combination of single family homes and detached townhomes. The Subject Property is zoned R-1 Residential (MUSA) and a Zoning Amendment accompanies this request to rezone the parcel to a Planned Unit Development (PUD). The proposed public benefit for consideration of a PUD is land that would be donated to the City for a portion of the Lake Itasca Greenway, connecting The COR with the newest community park at Lake Itasca.

Based on the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS), the Subject Property consists almost entirely of dry grassland with a small area of wetland-shrubland along the southern boundary (adjacent to the proposed greenway). Per the City's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), only a small portion at the southern boundary of the Subject Property was identified as a natural area, consisting of Altered/Non-Native Plant Community (per MLCCS, this is considered a semi-natural community and does not qualify for natural quality ranking) and Native Species Present in an Altered/Non-Native Plant Community (implies that there were native species present but within a non-native plant community). The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) does identify wetland along the southern boundary of the Subject Property. There are no floodplain areas within the Subject Property.

While there are not more detailed plans available (not required until the Preliminary Plat stage), this is an opportunity for the EPB to review the project in general as it relates to natural resources. Items to consider may include recommendations for boulevard trees (rather than front yard trees), retention of trees in the northwest corner of the Subject Property (granted, it is not known what is there in terms of species, size, quantity, or condition), potential areas for pollinator friendly landscaping, and density transitioning along with the eastern boundary. Note that due to the adjacent properties to the east being zoned R-1 Residential (Rural Developing), density transitioning is required. The Sketch Plan has been modified to include a forty-five (45) foot wide landscaped 'buffer easement' to address density transitioning.

Funding Source:

All costs associated with this request are the responsibility of the Applicant.

Action:

Based on discussion; no specific action is needed.

Attachments

Site Location Map

Sketch Plan

Conceptual Greenway Plan

Form Review

Inbox

Tim Gladhill
Chris Anderson (Originator)
Tim Gladhill
Form Started By: Chris Anderson
Final Approval Date: 10/12/2017

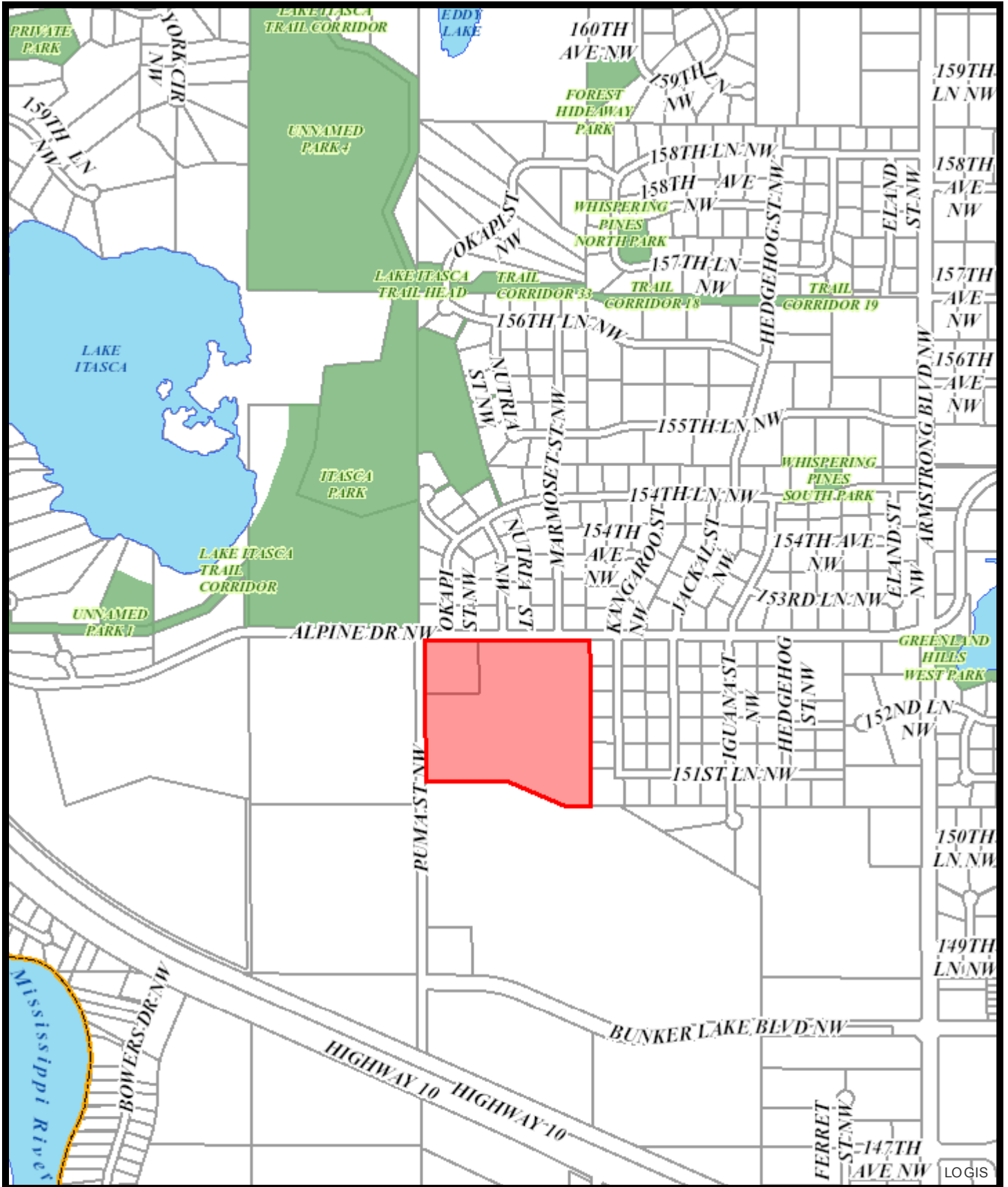
Reviewed By

Chris Anderson
Chris Anderson
JoAnn Shaw

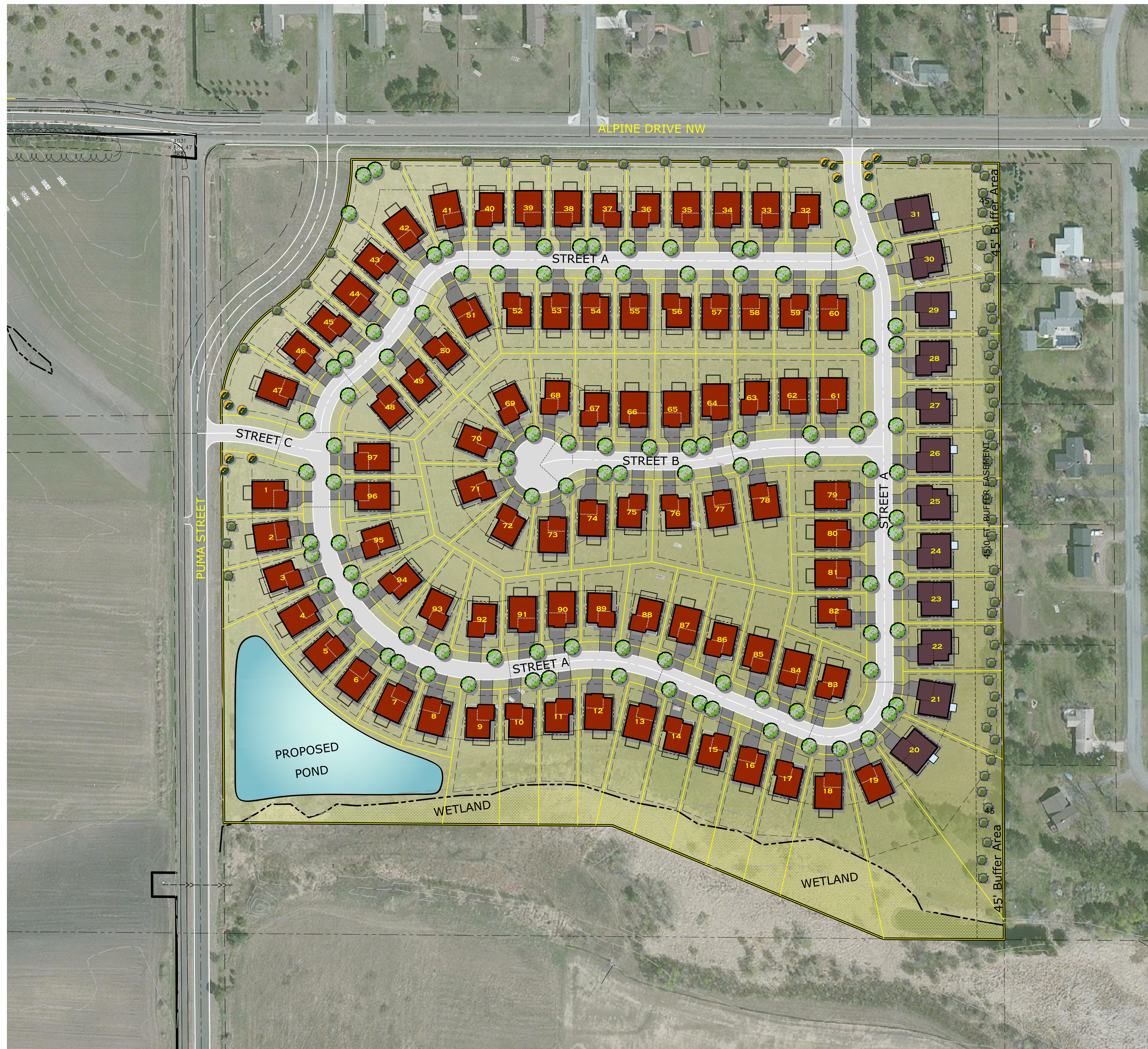
Date

10/12/2017 09:33 AM
10/12/2017 09:35 AM
10/12/2017 04:14 PM
Started On: 10/11/2017 03:08 PM

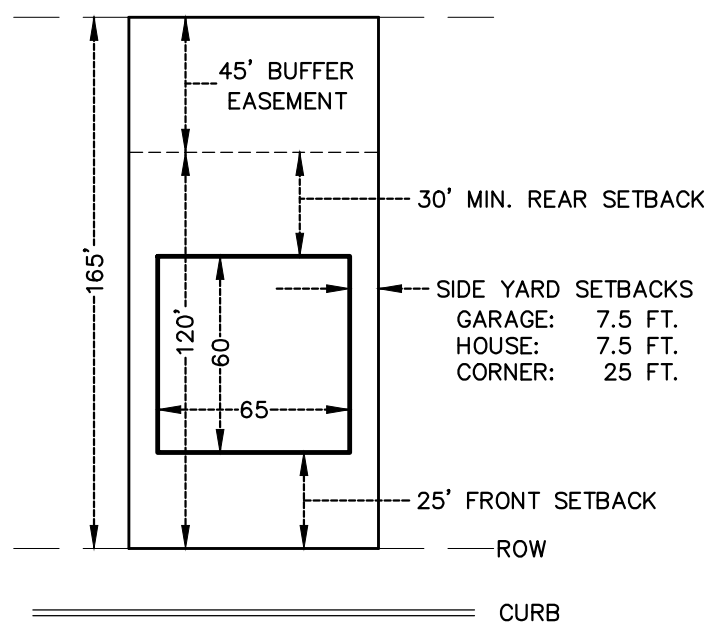
Site Location Map



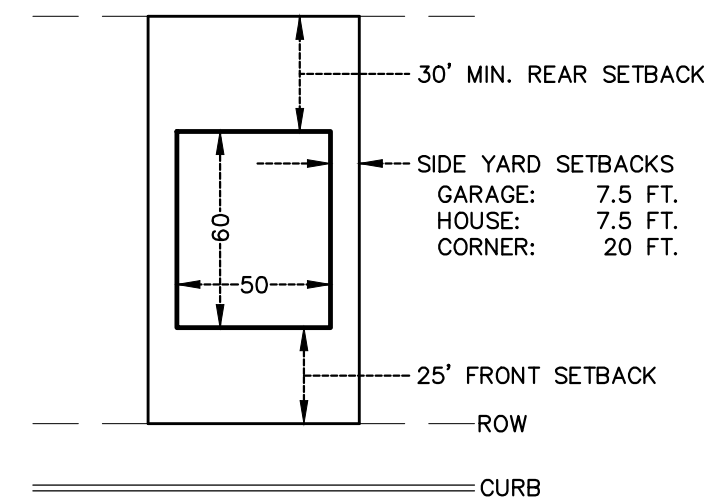
0 255 510 1,020 1,530 2,040
Feet



80' LOT DETAIL



65' LOT DETAIL



LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Outlet A and part of Outlet C, ALPHA DEVELOPMENT, Anoka County, Minnesota
 (Outlet C legal description subject to change at a future date.)

NOTES

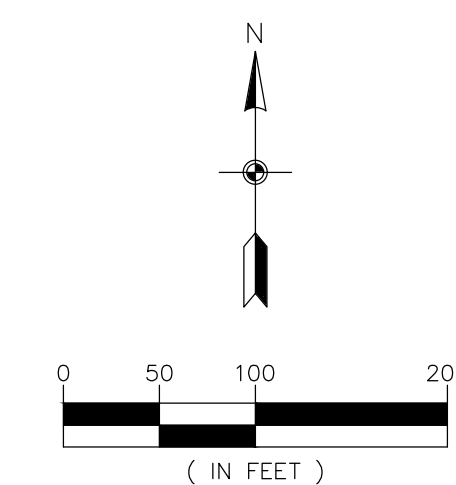
- 1) No field work has been completed at this time.
- 2) Subject property address - Southeast quadrant of Puma Street & Alpine Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303.
- 3) Topography shown is LIDAR which was provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- 4) Boundary shown taken from ALTA/NSPS LAND TITLE SURVEY prepared by Anderson Engineering, dated September 28, 2016.
- 5) Wetlands located by Kjalhaug Environmental Services, Inc., September 05, 2017.
- 6) No Title Work has been furnished for this survey, property is subject to all easements of record, if any.

SITE DATA

TOTAL BOUNDARY AREA _____ ±33.5 AC.
 TOTAL NUMBER OF LOTS _____ 97
 65 FT. LOTS _____ 85
 80 FT. LOTS _____ 12
 NET DENSITY _____ 3.69 LOTS/AC
 (EXCLUDES ROW AND WETLAND)

BUILDING SETBACK DATA

FRONT: _____ 25 FT.
 SIDE: _____ 7.5 FT.
 REAR: _____ 30 FT.
 CORNER: _____ 20 FT.



CONCEPT PLAN

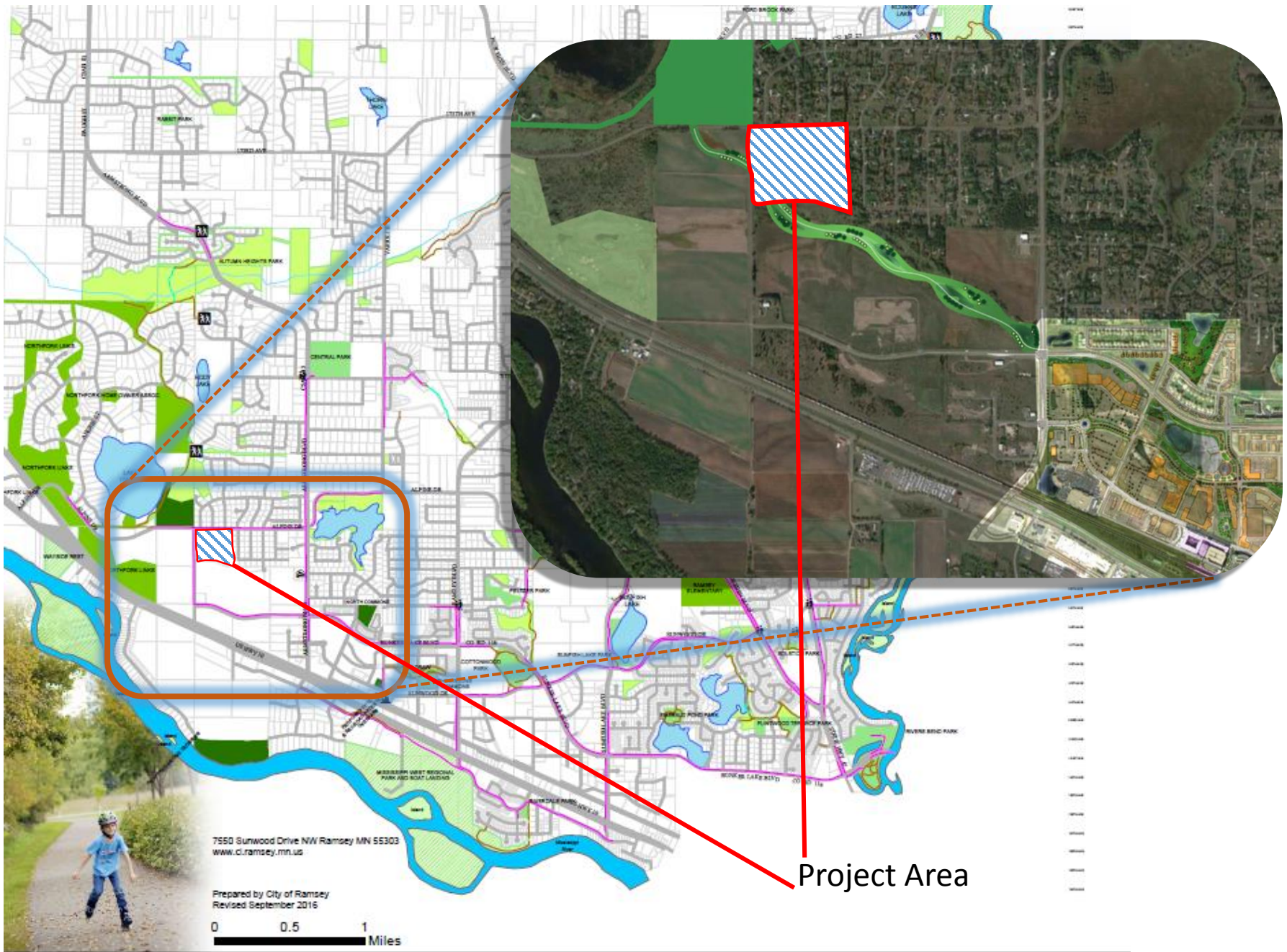
NORTH FORK MEADOWS
 Ramsey, Minnesota

PAXMAR

3495 Northdale, Suite 210
 Coon Rapids, Minnesota 55448

REVISIONS

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. | 08/28/17. | Rev. layout. |
| 2. | 09/18/17. | Rev. layout. |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | | |
| 5. | | |
| 6. | | |
| DRAWN BY: | | C# |
| ISSUE DATE: | | 05/04/17 |
| FILE NO: | | XXX |



City of Ramsey, Lake Itasca Greenway

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

5.3.

Meeting Date: 10/16/2017

By: Chris Anderson, Community Development

Information

Title:

Consider Sketch Plan for Rum River Prairie

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to introduce the EPB to a proposed Sketch Plan for Rum River Prairie. The proposed development is located along both sides of Armstrong Blvd north of Tiger St (the "Subject Property"). More detailed plans, including Landscape and Tree Preservation plans, will be developed and submitted in the coming months as part of a Preliminary Plat package.

Rum River Prairie is a proposed twenty-one (21) lot, single family residential subdivision. The Subject Property is zoned R-1 Residential (Rural Developing) and is guided as Rural Developing in the Comprehensive Plan. It does not appear that there are any proposed/requested deviations from Zoning Code or the Comprehensive Plan with this Sketch Plan.

Based on the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS), the Subject Property consists almost entirely of dry grassland cover type with a very small portion shown as wetland prairie. Per the City's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), the majority of the Subject Property was classified as an Altered/Non-Native Plant Community (per MLCCS, this is considered a semi-natural community that does not qualify for natural quality ranking), with the very northern portion being classified as Native Species Present in an Altered/Non-Native Plant Community (implies that there were native species present but within a non-native plant community). The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) does identify two small 'pocket' wetlands within the Subject Property. There are no floodplain areas within the Subject Property.

While there are not more detailed plans available (not required until the Preliminary Plat stage), this is an opportunity for the EPB to review the project in general as it relates to natural resources. Any potential feedback or comments from the EPB can be pass along to the developer prior to completion of the more detailed plans.

Funding Source:

All costs associated with this request are the responsibility of the Applicant.

Action:

Based on discussion; no specific action required.

Attachments

Site Location Map

Sketch Plan

Form Review

Inbox

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Reviewed By

JoAnn Shaw

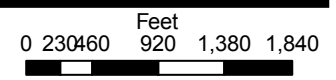
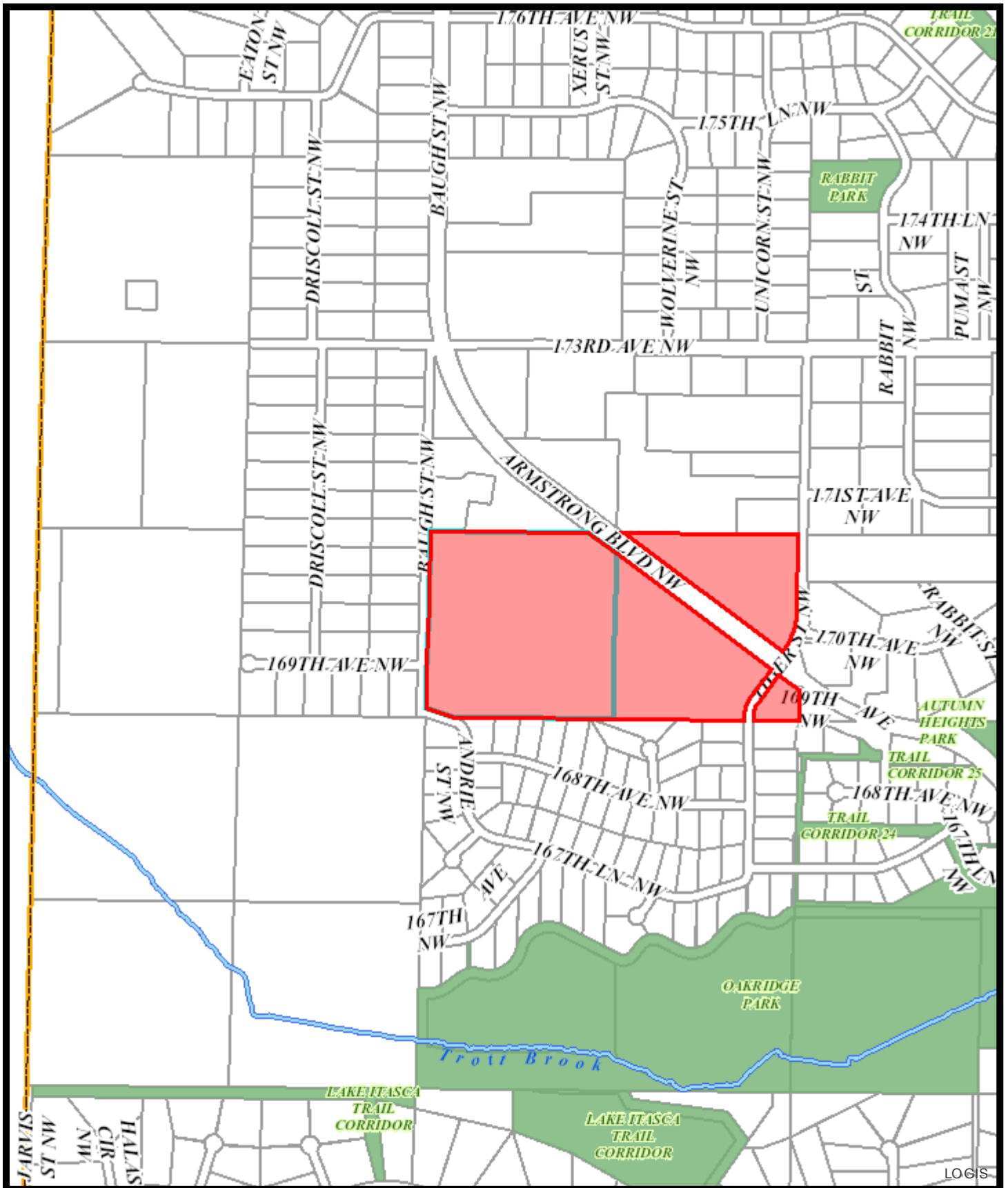
Date

10/12/2017 04:14 PM

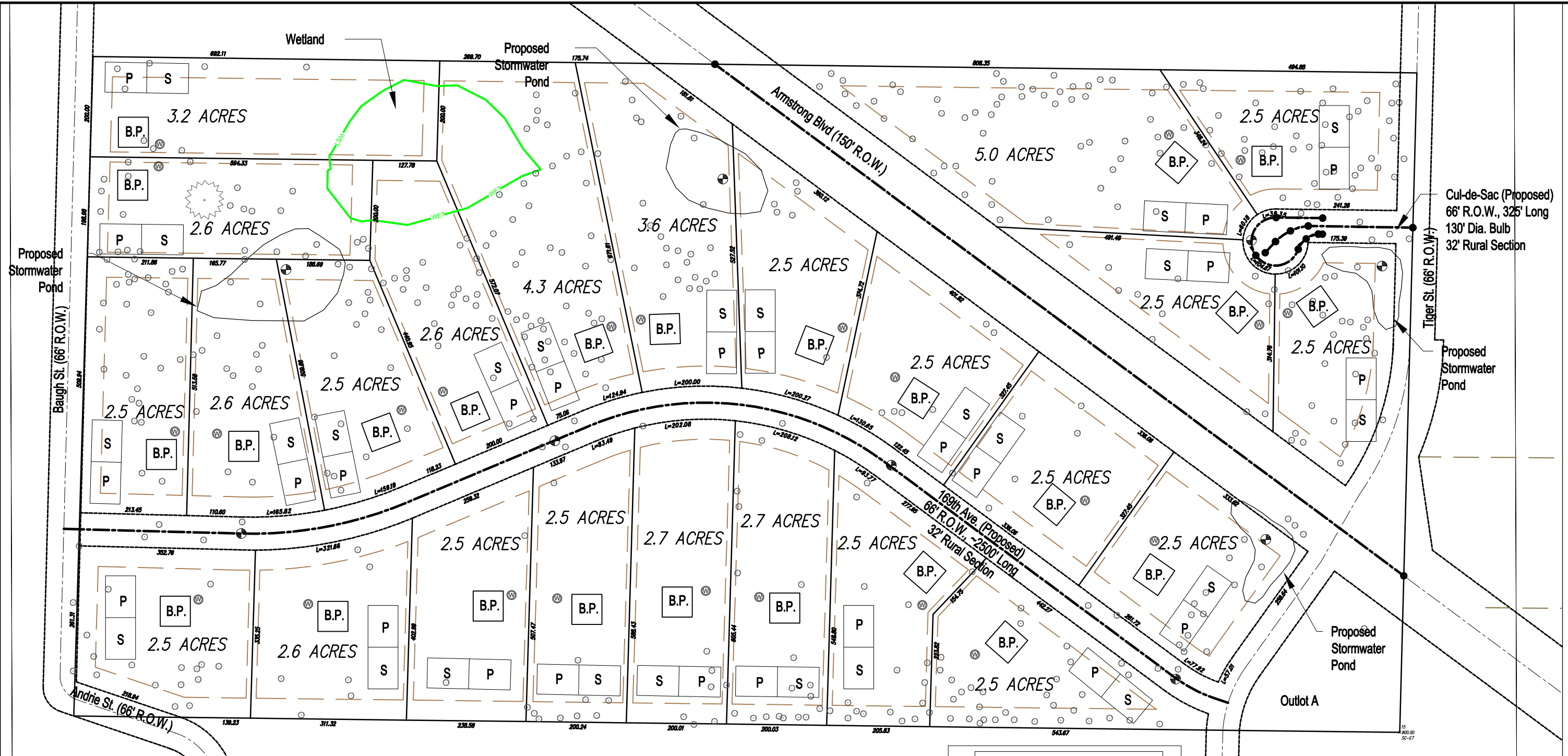
Started On: 10/12/2017 10:33 AM

Final Approval Date: 10/12/2017

Site Location Map

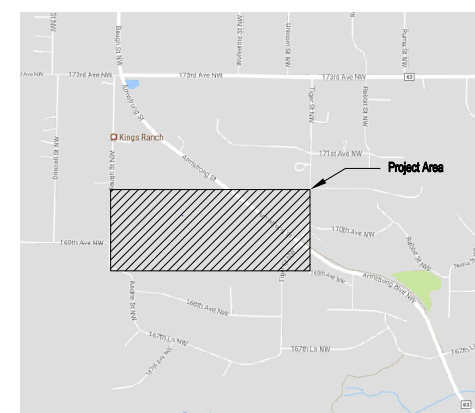


F:\\$HB FILES\2017\170163 ERIC THOMPSEN ARMSTRONG BLVD\600 DRAWINGS\SURVEY\170163 SKETCH 2017-09-26

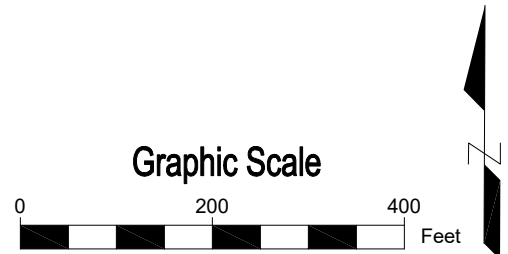


24 Single-Family Dwellings
 Approx. Net Density: 1 Dwelling per 2.81 Lot Acres
 Total Project SF: 3,480,800
 Total Project Acres: 80.0
 Total Lot SF: 3,026,413
 Total Lot Acres: 69.48

OWNER/DEVELOPER
 Brookview Estates, LLC.
 6210 Green Valley Rd.
 Ramsey, MN 55303



| LINE TYPE & SYMBOL LEGEND | |
|---------------------------|--|
| [B.P.] | Proposed Building Pad Location (Subject to Change) |
| [P S] | Drain Field: (P) Primary & (S) Secondary (Subject to Change) |
| [W] | Proposed Well Location |
| [Tree] | Existing Tree |
| [Dashed] | Lot Lines |
| [Dashed] | Right-of-Ways |
| [Dashed] | Structure Setback Line |
| [Green Line] | Wetland Edge |
| [Dotted] | Proposed Contour |



Proposed Development for Eric Thomsen

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION, OR REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED ENGINEER OR ARCHITECT UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.
 NAME _____ LIC. NO. _____ DATE _____

DESIGNED BY:
 DRAWN BY:

LHB, Inc.
 DULUTH - MINNEAPOLIS
 21 W. Superior Street, Suite 500, Duluth, MN 55802
 tel (218) 727-8446 / fax (218) 727-8456
 www.LHBcorp.com

SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 7, Township 32, Range 25 &
 SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 7, Township 32, Range 25

SHEET
 1
 OF
 1

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

5. 4.

Meeting Date: 10/16/2017

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Information

Title:

Update on Various Natural Resources Based Projects through the Resilient Communities Project (and Check-In with EPB Work Plan)

Purpose/Background:

The City was selected as the Community Partner by the University of Minnesota's Resilient Communities Project (RCP) for the 2017-2018 school year. The City proposed approximately twenty (20) potential projects to RCP ranging from in topics from housing to water supply to natural resources. RCP then seeks out upper level undergraduate and masters level courses that may be a good match for the various projects. With significant oversight by the professors, student groups work on a project, or an aspect of a project, as part of their coursework.

Several projects focused on natural resources have been successfully matched with courses for the fall semester. Note that Student groups are actively working on the following projects:

- Integrating Resources into Our Future (Natural Resources Management and Outreach Plan): RCP #6
 - Terrestrial Resources
 - Water Resources
- Restoring Our Edge (Mississippi Shoreline Plan): RCP #18
- Protecting Our Investments: Tree Inventory: RCP #1B
- Will the Faucet Turn On? (Water Conservation Outreach and Strategies): RCP #14

Observations/Alternatives:

Courses that are working on RCP projects range from Land Use Planning to Designing Planning and Participation Processes to Sustainable Land Use Planning and Policy. There is a wide range of student backgrounds and disciplines that the City now has access to along with the enthusiasm and 'out of the box' thinking of the students.

Outcomes of these various projects will be instrumental in accomplishing some of the tactics in the EPB's 2017-2019 Work Plan and/or completing updates to the Comprehensive Plan. Staff will be extending formal invitations to student groups for them to attend a future EPB meeting to present their work (potentially the December meeting). While not a requirement for the coursework, this not only helps bring the EPB up to speed on items outlined in the Work Plan, but also provides the students some 'real world' experience in presenting their project.

Three of the RCP projects directly relate to the EPB Work Plan. RCP project #s 6, 14 and 18 each play into items on the approved Work Plan. Participating in RCP provides additional capacity to work toward accomplishing the tactics outlined in the work plan that likely would sit stagnant otherwise.

While not being addressed by RCP, the final item on the work plan focuses on implementation of an organics recycling opportunity. The pilot program has been in full operation now for approximately three (3) months and there are fifty-one (51) individuals that have signed up for the program. Through September, 1,703 pounds of organic waste have been diverted from the garbage to recycling (equivalent of 0.85 tons!). This pilot program appears to have been well received by the community and hopefully will continue to grow.

Action:

No action needed; this is for informational purposes only.

Attachments

DRAFT Posters

EPB Work Plan

Form Review

Inbox

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 10/12/2017

Reviewed By

JoAnn Shaw

Date

10/12/2017 04:14 PM

Started On: 10/12/2017 11:47 AM

Planting for Growth



Cultivating vibrant and resilient streets in the City of Ramsey

Team | Ada Moreno Gomez
Nick Kieser
Victoria Dan

Instructor | Fernando Burga
Lead | Chris Anderson

Why a tree inventory?

Tree inventories are used to assess and manage forest and community trees. As a tool for Urban Forest Management, they guide and inform public officials to prioritize and budget to effectively and proactively manage public trees. Beyond the aesthetic appeal trees offer, they provide a multitude of ecosystem services to individuals, businesses, and visitors alike. Their benefits range from improving air quality, increasing property values and lowering energy costs, to beautifying neighbourhoods and improving overall wellbeing. In addition to providing the location of trees that need removal, maintenance or pruning, they are able to determine the overall health of public trees. They can be used for management and policy recommendations, to quantify the dollar value of a city's urban forest, and to educate residents about the benefits of all well-managed community forest.



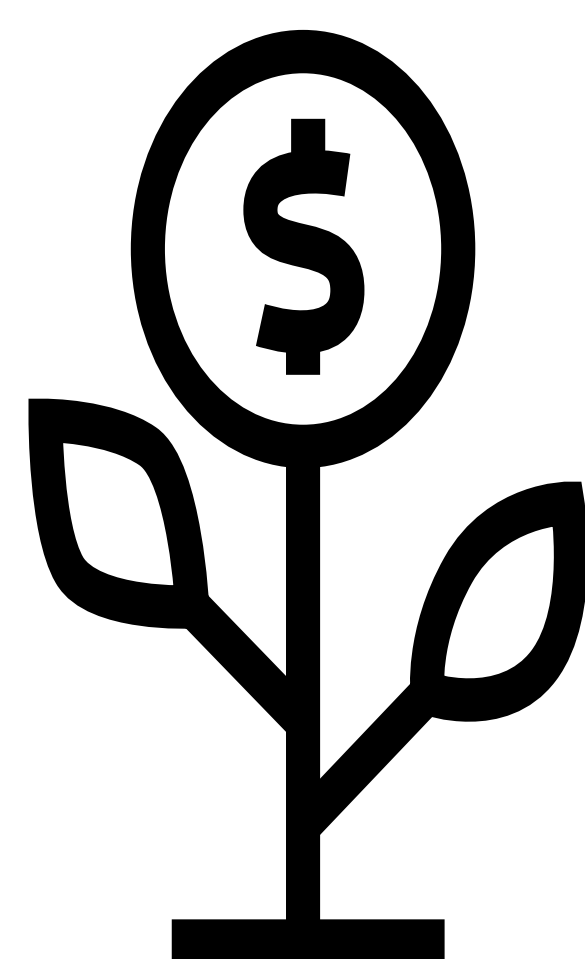
Added Property Value

Trees improve the value of homes and the aesthetic appeal of a neighbourhood. In addition to providing shade and privacy, a well maintained landscape add curb appeal and increases the value the property.



Energy Savings

Trees benefit neighborhoods and homes by reducing electricity costs. During hot summer months their shade can reduce air conditioning use and during the winter they provide wind barriers to decrease the need for heating.



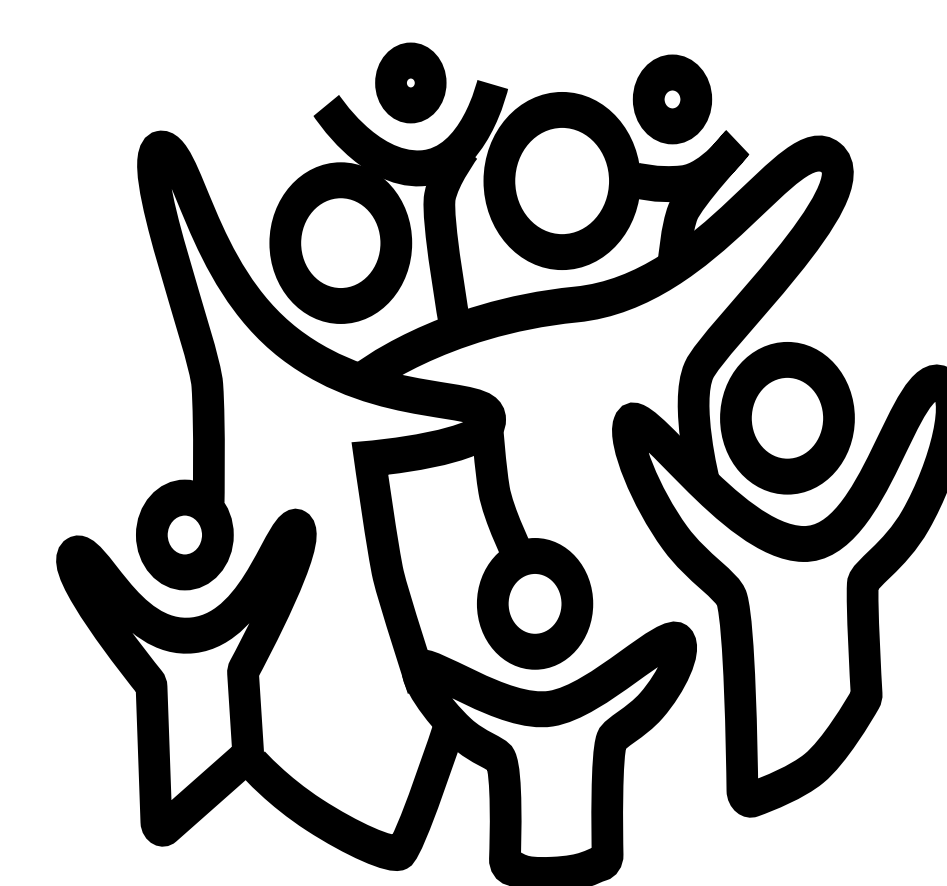
Cleaner Air

Trees improve air quality by absorbing and storing CO2 while releasing oxygen back into the atmosphere. They clean the air by absorbing odor and pollutants the filtering out airborne particles.



Improved Drainage

Trees reduce stormwater runoff by absorbing the water down its trunk and into the earth below. They act as natural sponges by filtering water and preventing stormwater from carrying pollutants into natural waterways like rivers and lakes.



Happy People

The ecosystem services trees provide improve the health and wellbeing of humans. The U.S. Forest Service calculates that trees are saving more than 850 human lives a year and preventing 670,000 incidences of acute respiratory symptoms.

Project Objectives

- Provide the City of Ramsey with the information and resources necessary to make better budgetary and management decisions for their upcoming Comprehensive Plan.
- Conduct an inventory of a corridor within the COR.
- Collect DBH, Overall Health, and Space Analysis information for each street tree.



Planting for Growth

Cultivating vibrant and resilient streets in the City of Ramsey

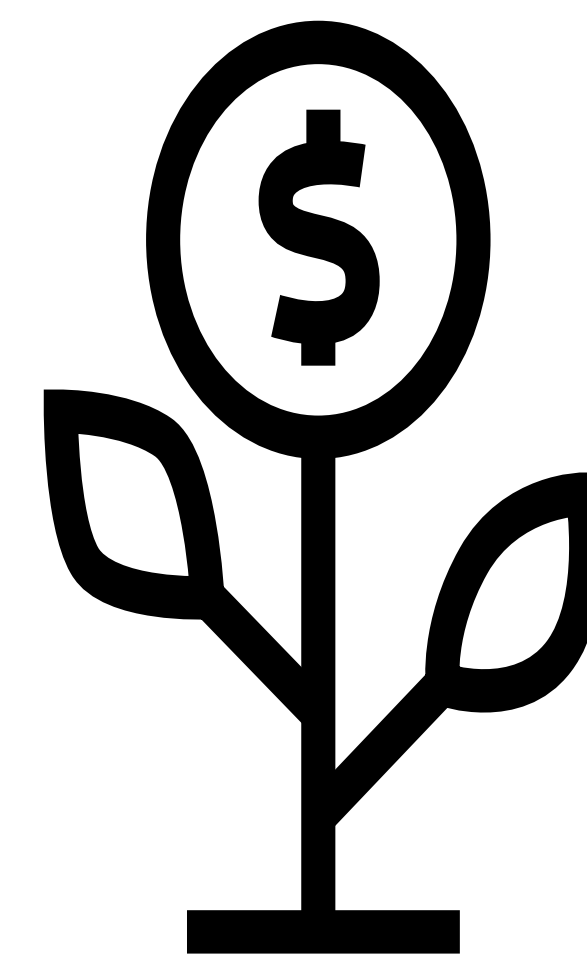
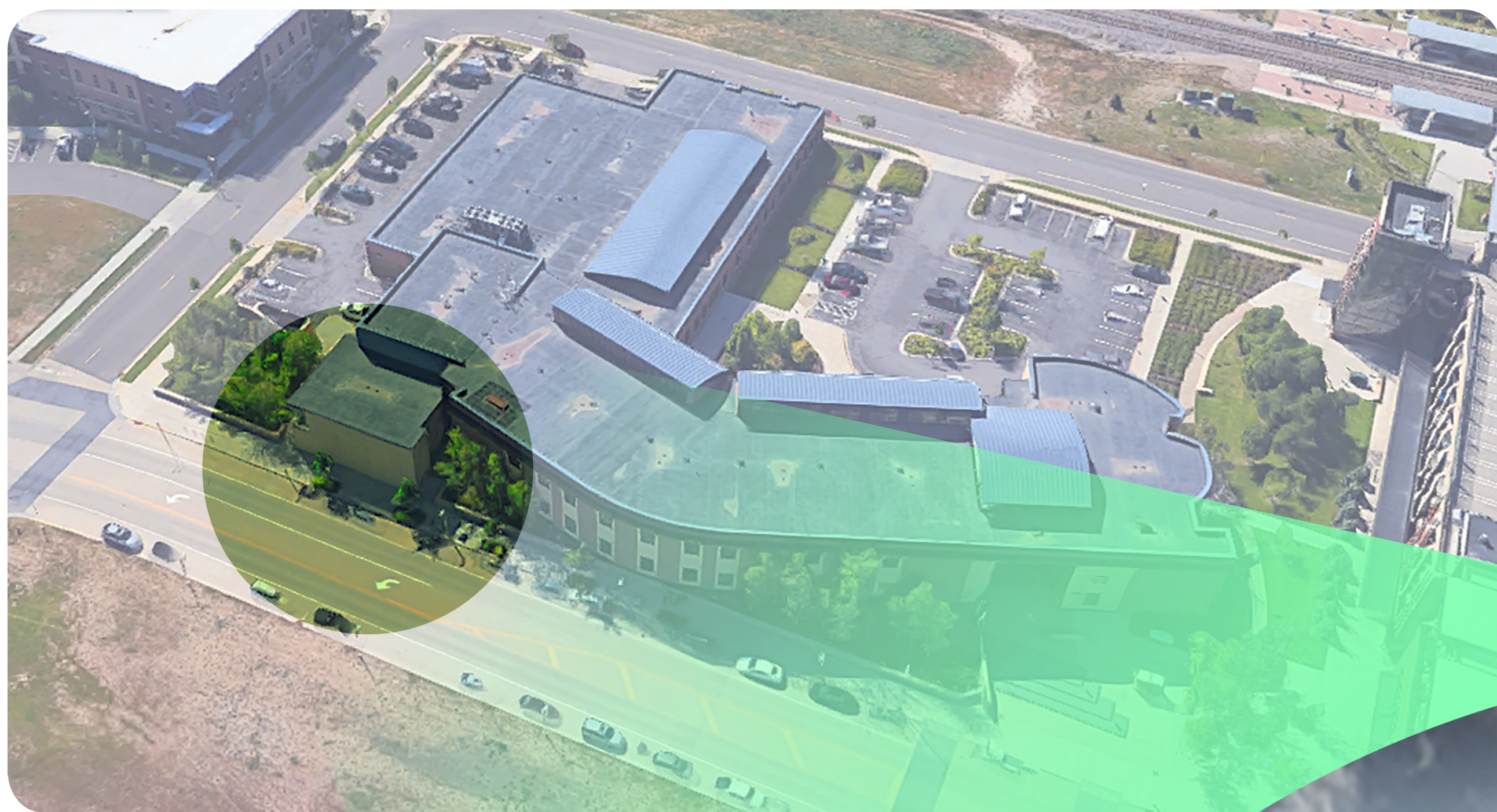
Team | Ada Moreno Gomez
Nick Kieser
Victoria Dan

Instructor | Fernando Burga
Lead | Chris Anderson

20 Years of Benefits

Trees are unique assets to cities and properties because they generally appreciate in value as they grow and age. Some trees do survive the urban environment for over a century, but most city street trees have a lifespan of around 20 years. Even so, in two decades a tree can impart significant benefits, and as the tree ages it more efficiently provides ecological services to owners and the wider community.

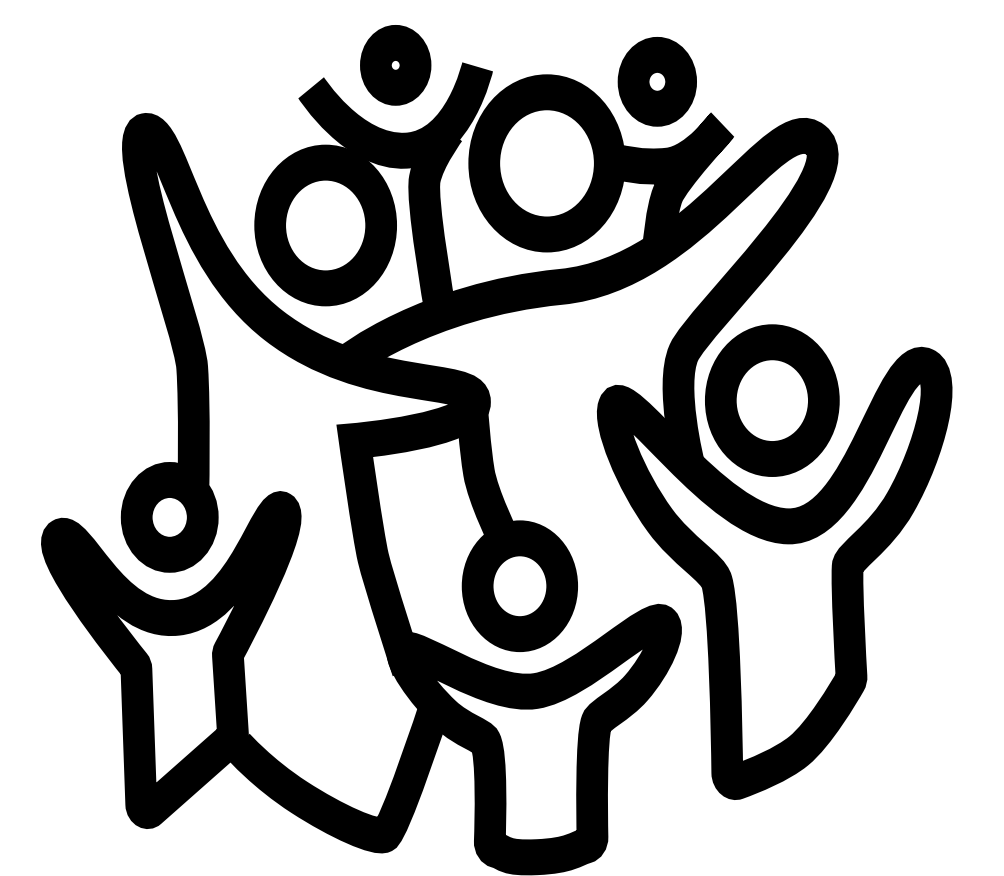
Featured below are two street oaks planted at the eastern corner of Ramsey City Hall. Over the next 20 years, they will perform services valuing \$1,168, and they will increase property value as the canopy grows.



Between 2017 and 2037, these trees will reduce atmospheric CO₂ by 10, 676 lb, about the annual CO₂ emission of a typical passenger vehicle. Trees can sequester (trap) CO₂ in the tree body; they also reduce pollutants by intercepting particulate matter (e.g. dust and smoke). Energy saving benefits also reduce power production, lowering emissions.



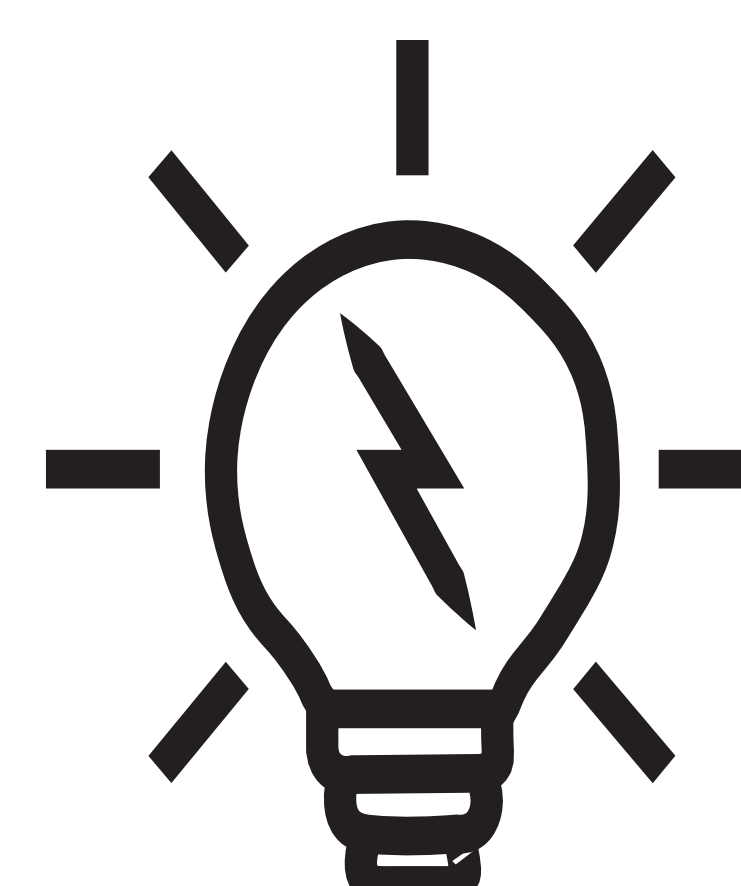
In 2017, these two trees will add \$23 to the property's value. A tree's Leaf Surface Area (LSA) is an effective predictor of a tree's impact on property value: as the canopy grows, it becomes a greater asset.



In two decades, these trees will conserve 1,461 kWh of electricity, the equivalent of running a 750-watt microwave for 81 days. They will also conserve 285 therms, which is enough to operate a household dryer for 59 days with natural gas. Trees produce energy savings by shading buildings to reduce air conditioning, buffering wind to conserve heat, and cooling surrounding air temperature via evapotranspiration (as water leaves the canopy, it becomes a cooling vapor).



Over the next 20 years, these trees will intercept 19,093 gallons of stormwater--that would fill over 477 bathtubs! This will prevent pollutants from quickly washing from impervious surfaces (like concrete and asphalt) into the nearby Mississippi River. Trees can hold rain on leaves, bark, and branches. Root networks are also more effective than the soil matrix at moving water, promoting infiltration (movement of water into soil) and water storage in the tree and soil.



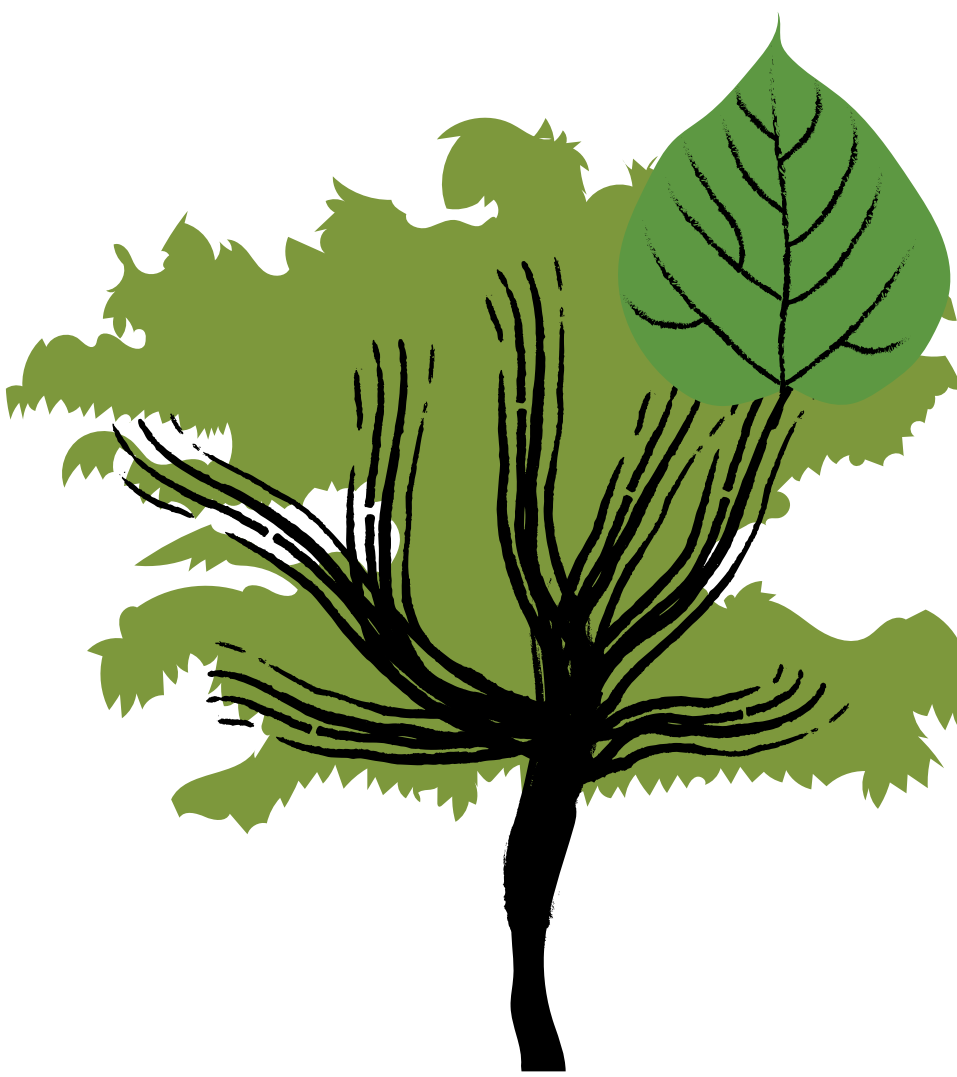
Planting for Growth



Cultivating vibrant and resilient streets in the City of Ramsey

Team | Ada Moreno Gomez
Nick Kieser
Victoria Dan

Instructor | Fernando Burga
Lead | Chris Anderson



- Benefits:**
- Fast growth rate
 - Adapts to urban stress
 - Tolerates air pollution and drought
 - Shading canopy
 - Fragrant blossoms

- Weaknesses:**
- Weak structure
 - Falling flowers and fruit need clean-up
 - Threatened by verticillium wilt, leaf spots, and powdery mildew

- Traits:**
- Bean-like seed pods
 - Large leaves
 - Irregular crown
 - Mature height: 60'
 - Mature canopy: 25'

Catalpa (genus *Catalpa*)

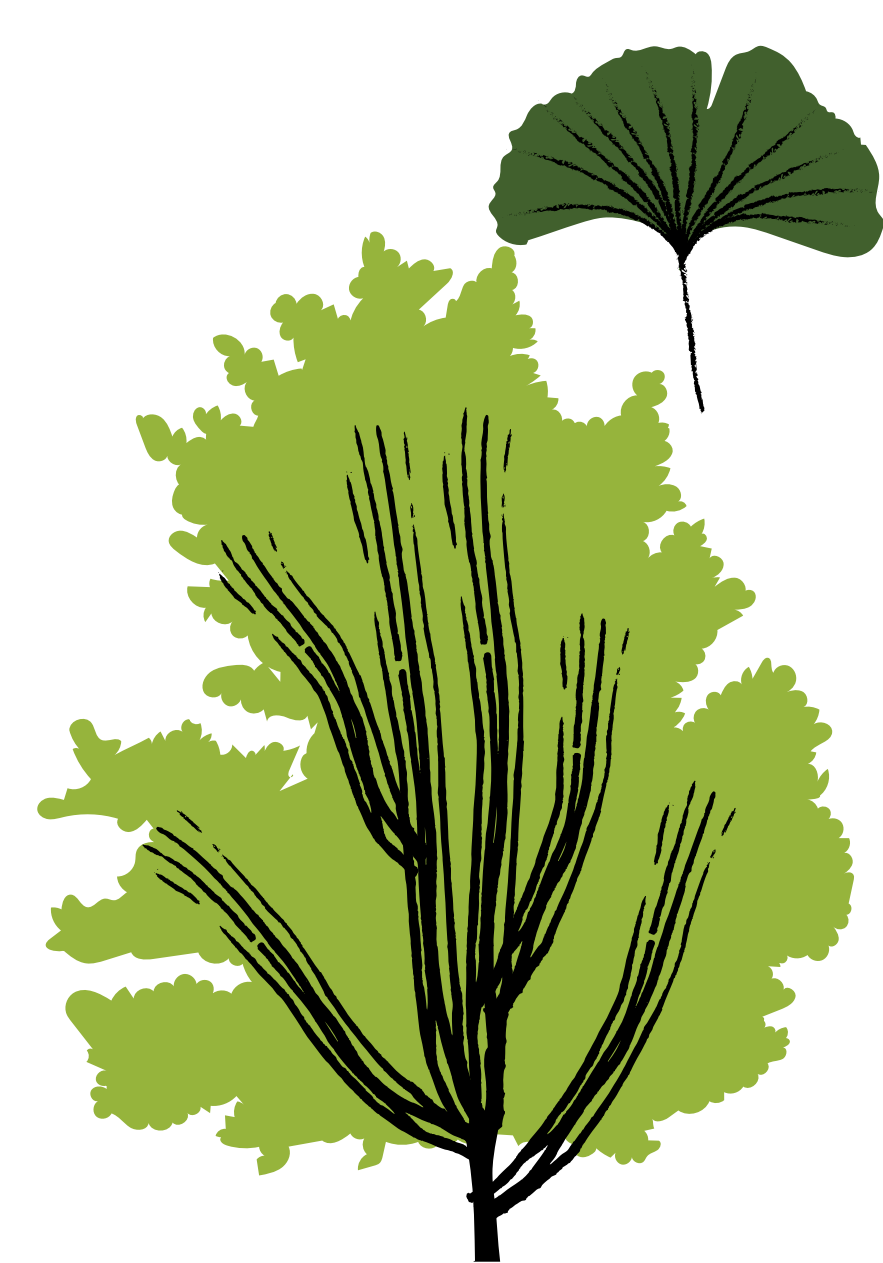


- Benefits:**
- Low maintenance
 - Adapts to urban stress
 - Tolerates salt, alkaline soil, and drought
 - Profuse spring flowering

- Weaknesses:**
- Susceptible to disease and fungus, including fireblight and scab
 - Requires full sun

- Traits:**
- Dense, rounded tree
 - Grows small fruit
 - Mature height: 30'
 - Mature canopy: 20'

Crabapple (genus *Malus*)



- Benefits:**
- Low Maintenance
 - Adapts to urban stress
 - Tolerates air pollution, salt, aconfined spaces
 - Grows in alkaline, acidic, and compacted soil
 - Shading canopy
 - Leaves turn bright yellow in fall

- Weaknesses:**
- Slow growth rate
 - Requires full sun

- Traits:**
- Short branches
 - Fan-shaped leaves
 - Mature height: 80'
 - Mature canopy: 30'

Ginkgo (genus *Ginkgo*)



- Benefits:**
- Native species
 - Adapts to urban stress
 - Tolerates drought
 - Grows in most soil textures, in alkaline and anaerobic soil
 - Shading canopy
 - Colorful fall foliage

- Weaknesses:**
- Limited tolerance to compaction, salt, and confined spaces
 - Branch loss
 - Threatened by the Asian Longhorned Beetle and fungus

- Traits:**
- 5-lobed leaves
 - Round/oval growth
 - Mature height: 50'-90'
 - Mature canopy: 35'-40'

Maple (genus *Acer*)



Trees in Ramsey

Trees are incredibly diverse, with each species providing a specific range of advantages and disadvantages. Cities, businesses, and community members can determine the best trees for planting based on tree qualities (e.g. shading, ornamentation) as well as restrictions on planting conditions (e.g. soil type, limited space). Disease and invading insects also present challenges to planting--Ash trees, for example, are not recommended for new planting due to the prevalence of Emerald Ash Borers.



- Benefits:**
- Native species
 - Fast growth rate
 - Adapts to urban stress
 - Tolerates salt and drought
 - Grows in alkaline soil
 - Strong branches
 - Colorful fall foliage

- Weaknesses:**
- Susceptible to insect attacks
 - Pods require clean-up

- Traits:**
- Compound leaves
 - Mature height: 70'
 - Mature canopy: 40'

Honey Locust (genus *Gleditsia*)



- Benefits:**
- Native species
 - Moderate to fast growth rate
 - Adapts to urban stress
 - Tolerates of salt, moisture, drought, and wind
 - Shading canopy

- Weaknesses:**
- Requires full sun
 - Susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease

- Traits:**
- Toothed leaves
 - Umbrella-like crown
 - Mature height: 70'
 - Mature canopy: 40'

Elm (genus *Ulmus*)



- Benefits:**
- Native species
 - Fast growth rate
 - Adapts to urban stress
 - Tolerates pollution
 - Grows in most soil textures
 - Colorful fall leaves

- Weaknesses:**
- Intolerant of salt
 - Requires full sun
 - Susceptible to Oak Wilt

- Traits:**
- Narrow crown
 - Large acorns
 - Mature height: 80'-100'
 - Mature canopy: 40'-60'

Oak (genus *Quercus*)



- Benefits:**
- Native species
 - Fast growth rate
 - Tolerates salt
 - Grows in compacted and alkaline soil
 - Shading canopy
 - Tough, elastic wood

- Weaknesses:**
- Lower tolerance for drought conditions
 - Requires full sun
 - Threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer, and is not recommended for new planting

- Traits:**
- Compound leaves
 - Rounded crown
 - Mature height: 65'-90'
 - Mature canopy: 20'-40'

Ash (genus *Fraxinus*)

methods

4

Planting for Growth



Cultivating vibrant and resilient streets in the City of Ramsey

Team | Ada Moreno Gomez
Nick Kieser
Victoria Dan

Instructor | Fernando Burga
Lead | Chris Anderson

downtown COR

5

Planting for Growth



Cultivating vibrant and resilient streets in the City of Ramsey

Team | Ada Moreno Gomez
Nick Kieser
Victoria Dan

Instructor | Fernando Burga
Lead | Chris Anderson

residential

6

Planting for Growth



Cultivating vibrant and resilient streets in the City of Ramsey

Team | Ada Moreno Gomez
Nick Kieser
Victoria Dan

Instructor | Fernando Burga
Lead | Chris Anderson

Planting for Growth



Cultivating vibrant and resilient streets in the City of Ramsey

Team | Ada Moreno Gomez
Nick Kieser
Victoria Dan

Instructor | Fernando Burga
Lead | Chris Anderson

digital tools



Planting for Growth



Team | Ada Moreno Gomez
Nick Kieser
Victoria Dan

Instructor | Fernando Burga
Lead | Chris Anderson

Cultivating vibrant and resilient streets in the City of Ramsey

CONCLUSION



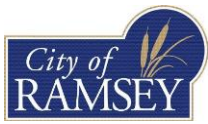
Planting for Growth



Cultivating vibrant and resilient streets in the City of Ramsey

Team | Ada Moreno Gomez
Nick Kieser
Victoria Dan

Instructor | Fernando Burga
Lead | Chris Anderson



Environmental Policy Board Work Plan 2017 – 2019

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Environmental Policy Board (EPB) will promote environmental awareness and conservation practice by citizens by advising the City Council on policy issues, review of new development proposals, communication and education. Through careful review, the EPB will present multiple perspectives, ideas, and new technologies that promote both discovery and accountability.

| Initiative | Department | Tactics | Initiation Date | Completion Date | Additional Resources Required | Additional Tools Required | Responsible Party | Key Outcome Indicators/Metrics |
|--|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Enhance Protection of Natural Resources | Community Development/ Parks | EPB 1.1 – Ensure sustainability of food supply and food web by promoting pollinator friendly practices and initiatives. | 2017 | 2018 | 0.25 FTE | TBD | Anderson/ Riverblood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create polices to maintain and expand pollinator friendly landscapes on public lands through collaboration with the Parks & Recreation Commission • Improve communications and resources regarding pollinators to residents and businesses |
| | Community Development | EPB 1.2 – Protect water quality of Mississippi River from additional sediment loading due to shoreline erosion | 2017 | 2019 | 0.25 FTE | TBD | Anderson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify impacted properties owners interested in participating in bank stabilization projects • Identify applicable grant programs as source of funding for projects |
| | Community Development/ Public Works | EPB 1.3 – Extend the longevity of drinking water supply by reducing demand on groundwater | 2017 | 2018 | 0.25 FTE | TBD | Anderson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop incentives and or programs to promote water conservation throughout community • Develop resources and establish means to distribute the information to the general public |
| | Community Development | EPB 1.4 – Reduce amount of material entering waste stream and explore more reuse options | 2017 | 2017 | 0.25 FTE | None | Anderson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement an organics recycling pilot program to divert largest component of trash (organics) to reusable product (compost) • Improve communications and resources regarding composting to residents and businesses |