

To Whom It May Concern,

For the past 2 years, I have been in discussions with the City of Ramsey in regards to placing a fence around a portion of my back yard located at 7214 167th Terrace NW. I believe a fence to be for the common good of the city, neighbors, and my family. I have included a diagram of the proposed route below.

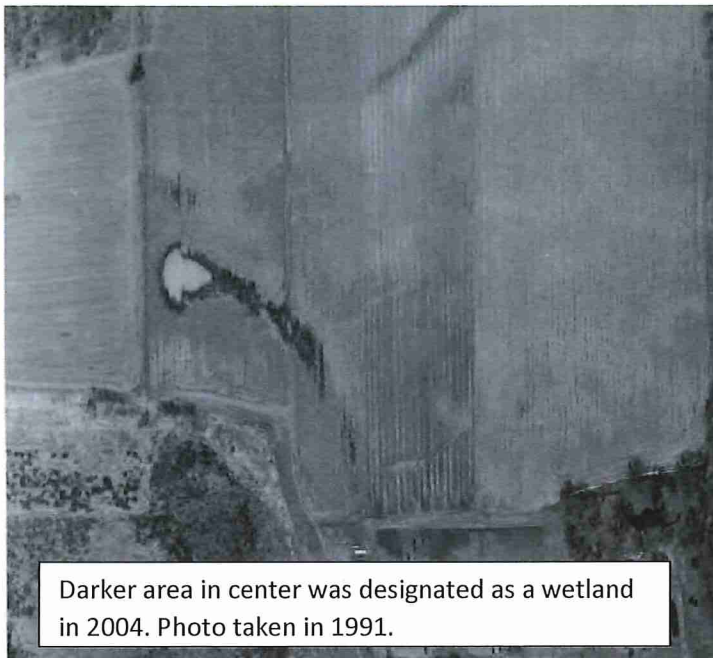


I am hoping to construct a 4' tall black chain link fence along this route to accomplish several purposes, the first of which is Safety. My wife and I have 2 young boys, ages 3.5 years and 8 months. It has been sobering each time a news story comes out about a child that enters a body of water and drowns because they are curious about the water. Providing some sort of barrier that encloses a safe play area is our foremost reason for wanting a fence. A fence along this route also provides for the safety of other kids in the neighborhood. As the pond freezes and thaws in the fall and spring each year, I see neighbor kids drawn to the water's edge, and sometimes out on the ice, without parental supervision. While their parents may have sanctioned their adventures, I, as the property owner would likely be partially liable for not having made an effort to stop these adventures. This liability piece is a main driver in how this fence layout was designed.

I realize the city's need to possibly access the pond with machinery. I am open to suggestions of gate size and placement that would make this feasible. Due to the extreme slope of the hill on the south side of our garage, I imagine that would not be the preferred route for machinery if deemed necessary. Another point of disagreement is the fact that the area is designated as wetland. Back when our development was a field, this wetland area was a natural collection point for surface water for the entire field. Now that the development has occurred, this area only takes surface water from our yard and a handful of neighboring yards and is only wet for a day or two following a large rain event. This wetland was in production while part of the field as evidenced by old aerial photos which indicates to me that

the wetland designation was not meant to preserve any fragile ecosystem like so many wetlands do. With the dredging of the pond in such close proximity, the water absorptive capacity of this wetland area is not relied upon on a regular basis.

This wetland really looks so much like regular yard that contractors and residents frequently fail to recognize it as such. While houses were being built, this area was driven across by large trucks, yards were established, and other fences built within the wetland boundary.



Darker area in center was designated as a wetland in 2004. Photo taken in 1991.



Silt Fence in place as of 11/20/2006 with field remnants throughout the wetland area.



Photo 5/5/2008 showing construction traffic having driven through and changing the wetland composition inside the silt fence.



Silt Fence removed as of 4/19/2011 and yards established within wetland boundary



All surrounding houses built and other fences built in the wetland area. Photo 5/5/2014



I appreciate the ability to present my case on this matter. We moved to Ramsey in 2013 because we understood it to be a great place to raise a family with connections to nature and room to run around and play. We chose this lot because the field area towards the back of the lot provides ample room for sports and other activities. I believe that our choice in fencing of chain link represents the desire to let water and wind move where they may while having a minimal impact on the soils where the posts stand. A fence is a great way to keep our kids safe and our dog contained but with plenty of room to run and play.

Thank You for your consideration,

Brandon Sis
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