

City of Ramsey 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

Land Use Plan

Land Use as the Foundation

The Land Use Plan serves as the foundation in a series of plans that guides the future of Ramsey. Policy decisions on how the community will change over the next twenty (20) years will have impacts on a variety of systems.

Forecasts divided by transportation analysis zones (TAZ) and urban services areas are found in the Transportation Plan and Water Resources Plan respectively.

Community Designation

Ramsey is designated as an 'Emerging Suburban Edge' by the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council uses community designations to group communities with similar characteristics in order to more effectively target its policies. The Metropolitan Council uses these community designations to:

- Guide regional growth and development to areas that have urban infrastructure in place and the capacity to accommodate development and redevelopment.
- Establish land use expectations, including overall densities and development patterns, for different community designations.
- Outline the respective roles of the Metropolitan Council and Ramsey along with strategies for planning for forecasted growth.

An Emerging Suburban Edge Community is characterized as transitioning from rural to developed. It should be noted that although a portion of Ramsey certainly is transition in this manner, a significant portion of the community remains guided for larger-lot, single-family development on private well and septic along with goals to protect a significant amount of exceptional quality ecological resources.

The Emerging Suburban Edge includes cities, townships, and portions of both that are in the early stages of transitioning into urbanized levels of development. Strategically located between Suburban Edge and Rural communities, the Emerging Suburban Edge communities offer both connections to urban amenities and the proximity to open spaces that characterizes a rural lifestyle. Often, the cities and townships in the Emerging Suburban Edge are in more than one Community Designation. In the majority of Emerging Suburban Edge communities, less than 40% of the land has been developed.

Communities in the Emerging Suburban Edge have a mix of residential, rural, and agricultural areas, often including lower-density single-family neighborhoods and small downtown service centers. The growth patterns in these communities demonstrate the challenges of changing from rural to suburban. New developments are typically built in a traditional suburban pattern, characterized by large curving streets, limited through-roadways, and auto-oriented street design. Emerging Suburban Edge communities have access to regional wastewater services (either municipally owned or regional

services), access to the metropolitan highway system, and include existing or planned Regional Parks System facilities.

The Emerging Suburban Edge communities provide a variety of commercial activities along the main transportation corridors, and most encompass historic small downtowns with small town characteristics. These communities benefit from their proximity to more developed areas while retaining their local rural character and protecting natural resources. Commercial areas in the Emerging Suburban Edge tend to be individual large employers and smaller-scale commercial centers serving the local population.

Although these communities have some redevelopment potential in older areas such as historic downtown districts, the focus in the Emerging Suburban Edge is on greenfield development. Greenfields present opportunities to integrate natural resource preservation into site planning prior to development. Some of these communities have land available within their jurisdiction staged for future development, while others are expanding through orderly annexation agreements with neighboring townships. This mix of uses, availability of undeveloped land, and rich access to natural resources is a characteristic unique to Emerging Suburban Edge communities.

As of May 2014, the Metropolitan Council forecasts that the Emerging Suburban Edge area will add 201,000 residents, 93,000 households, and 58,000 jobs between 2010 and 2040. This represents growth of 66% in population, 87% in households, and 66% in employment over the three decades. Because most Emerging Suburban Edge communities also have areas designated as rural, these numbers are approximations. These numbers may change during the current comprehensive planning process, which will more precisely delineate how much community growth belongs inside the Metropolitan Urban Service Area.

Figure 1: Ramsey Community Designation

**Community Designation
City of Ramsey, Anoka County**

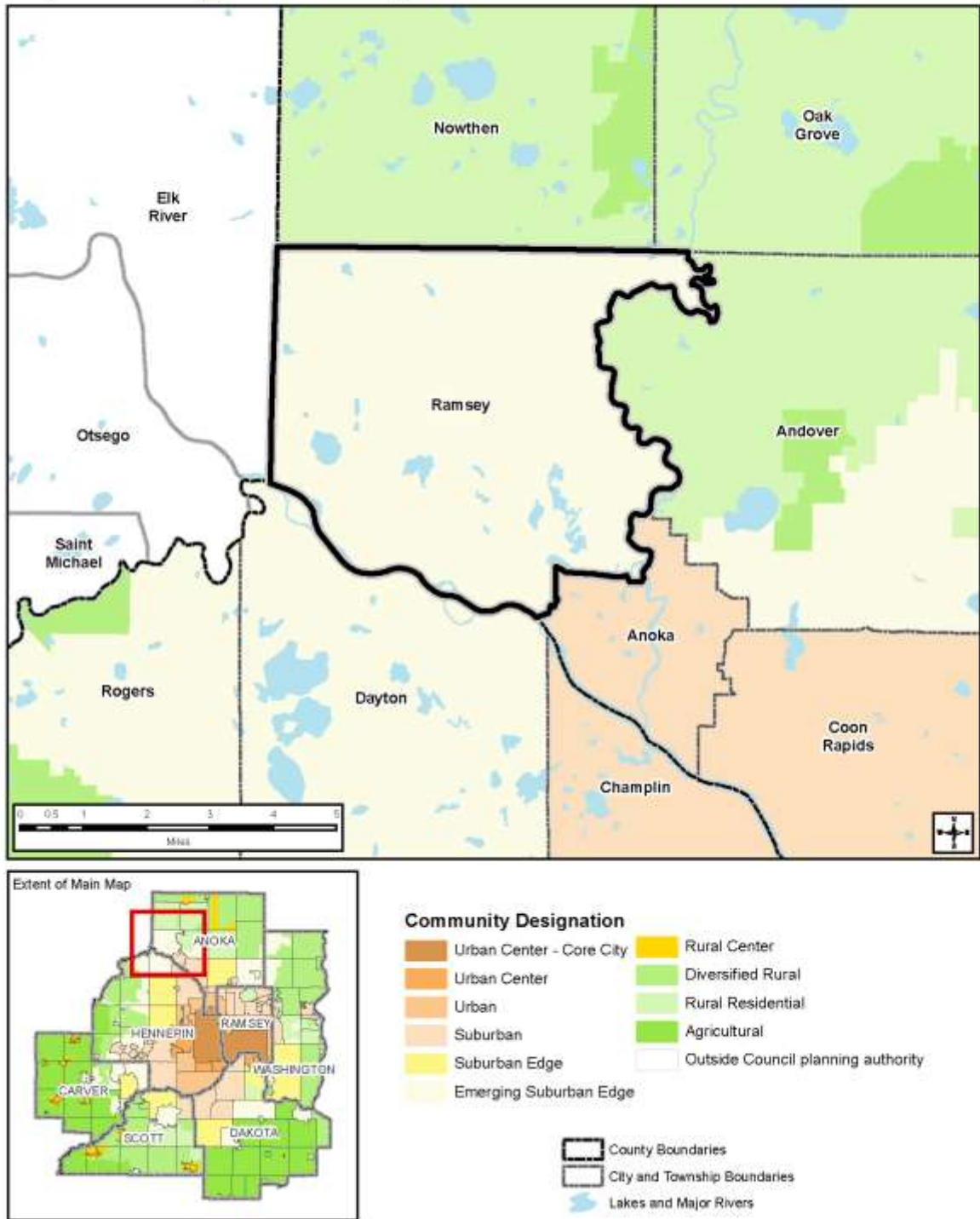
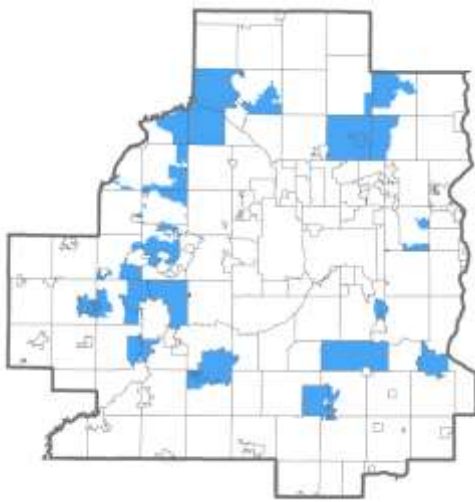


Figure 2: Emerging Suburban Edge Communities

Designated Emerging Suburban Edge communities are:

Andover*, Carver, Centerville, Chanhassen, Columbus*, Corcoran*, Dayton, Empire Township*, Farmington, Forest Lake*, Greenfield*, Hastings, Hugo*, Independence*, Lake Elmo*, Lino Lakes, Medina*, Minnetrista*, Orono*, Prior Lake, Ramsey, Rogers*, Rosemount, St. Paul Park, Victoria, and Waconia.

*Listed in this designation but also has areas in other designations.



Existing Land Uses

Figure 3: Existing Land Use Map

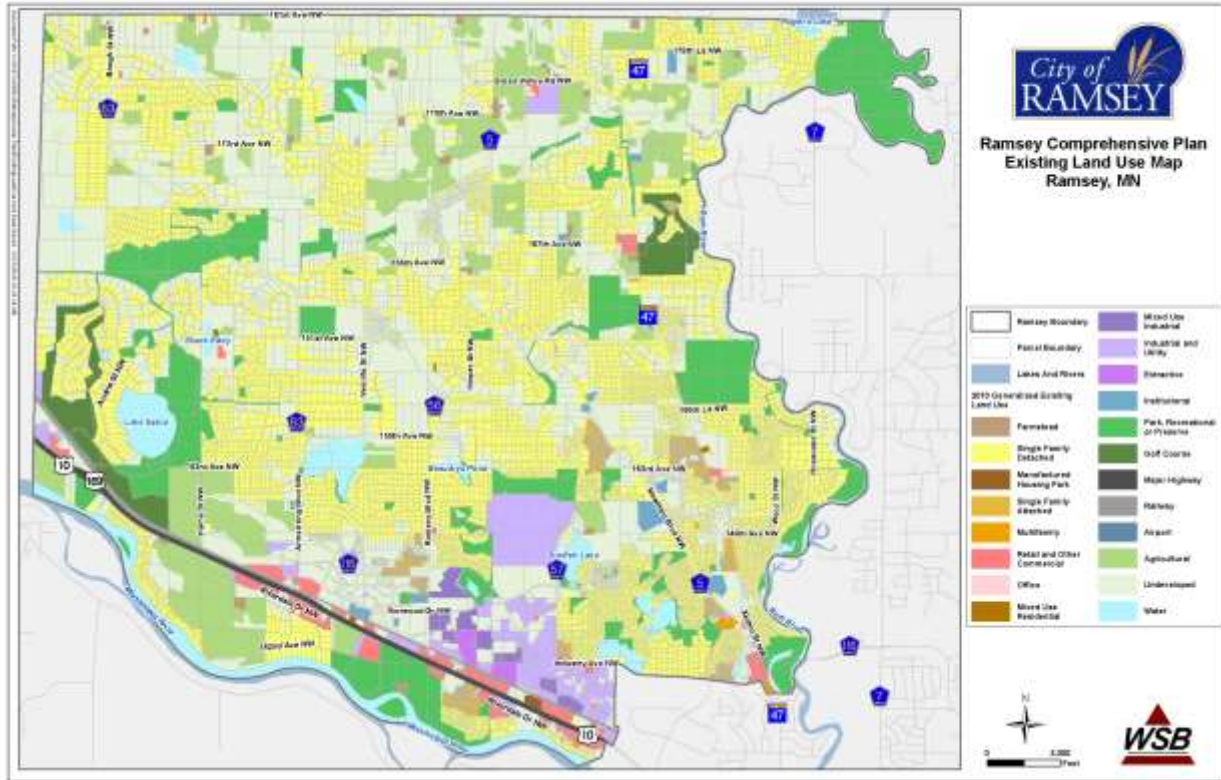


Table 1: Existing Land Use Categories

Year	Land Use	Acres	Percentage of Total
2010	Agriculture	1,659	9 %
2010	Airport	0	0 %
2010	Extractive	40	0 %
2010	Farmstead	65	0 %
2010	Golf Course	332	2 %
2010	Industrial and Utility	561	3 %
2010	Institutional	92	0 %
2010	Major Highway	144	1 %
2010	Manufactured Housing Park	7	0 %
2010	Mixed Use Industrial	107	1 %
2010	Mixed Use Residential	8	0 %
2010	Multifamily	12	0 %
2010	Office	14	0 %
2010	Open Water	753	4 %
2010	Park, Recreational or Preserve	1,960	10 %
2010	Railway	67	0 %
2010	Retail and Other Commercial	254	1 %
2010	Single Family Attached	227	1 %
2010	Single Family Detached	6,837	36 %

2010	Undeveloped Land	5,957	31 %
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Future Land Uses

Figure 4: Future Land Use Map

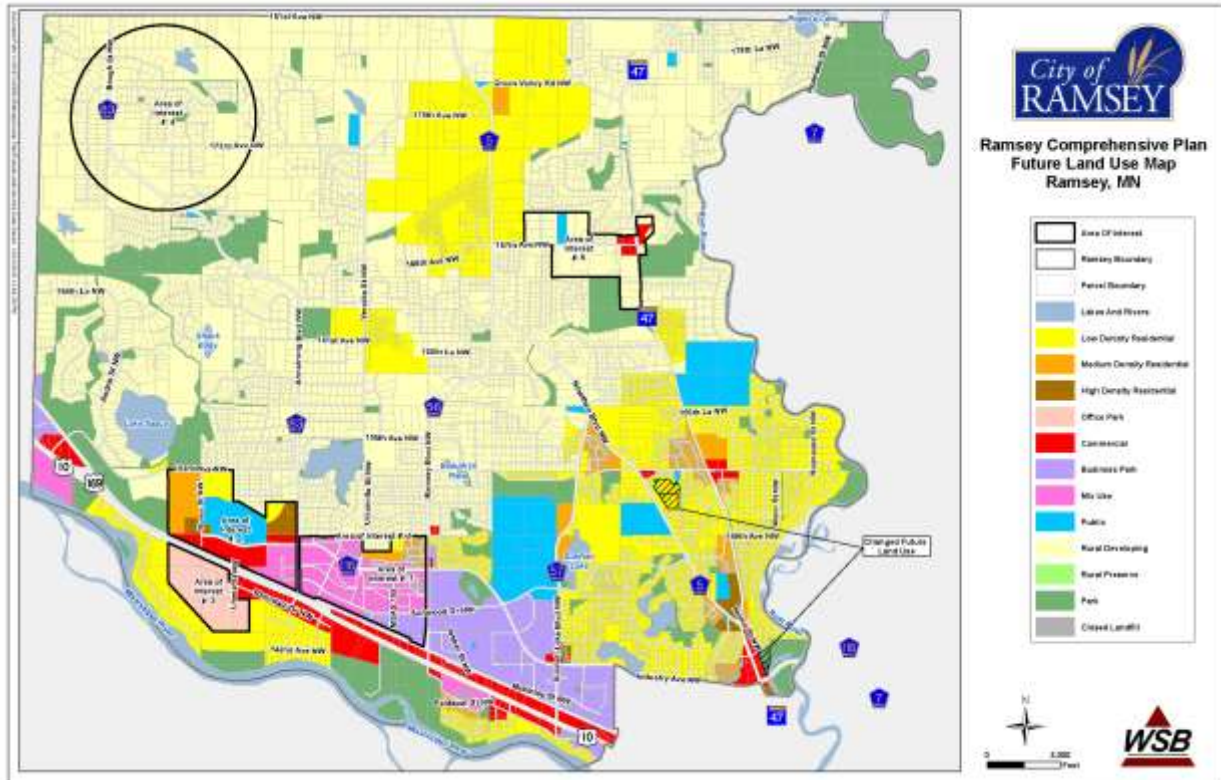


Table 2: Future Land Use Categories

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Future Land Use Descriptions

Lakes and Rivers

Low Density Residential

Areas guided Low Density Residential must have urban services before development can take place. These areas will average three (3) units per acre and contain single family, detached dwellings.

Where Low Density Residential is directly adjacent to areas guided Rural Developing that contain 2.5 acre lots, strategies for density transitioning will be employed. This means that while an area of Low Density Residential may average 3 units per acre, those lots directly adjacent to 2.5 acre lots will be closer in size to 2.5 acres in order to provide an effective transition that maintains the existing character of the neighborhood. Screening methods, such as landscaping must also be employed to transition between very low density areas and urban lots.

Medium Density Residential

These areas are within the MUSA and intended to receive medium density housing including lower density multi-family housing and higher density single-family housing. Average density will be six (6) units per acre.

High Density Residential

These areas are within MUSA and intended to accommodate multi-family housing such as townhomes and apartment buildings. Average density will be twelve (12) units per acre.

Business Park

Areas guided Business Park are reserved for office and industrial development.

Commercial

Areas guided Commercial may include a range of neighborhood and community commercial/retail development.

Mixed Use

Mixed Use areas may include a combination of residential, commercial, light industrial, open space and a transit hub.

Public/Quasi-Public

This category generally includes city offices, public works facilities, churches, schools other non-profit or government facilities, and bridges/major rights-of-way.

Park

Parks, trails and open space include the City Park and trail system, golf courses, regional parks, wetlands and the greenway. Lands in this category are intended to preserve the natural resource base and provide an adequate supply of active and passive recreational lands in Ramsey.

Closed Landfill

The risk to public health and safety associated with the closed landfill in Ramsey is mitigated by implementing land-use controls that minimize public exposure to landfill hazards and protect the state's response action equipment. In other words, future use of land at and around closed landfills needs to be planned carefully and responsibly. The purpose, then, for preparing a CLUP for each landfill is to protect the integrity of the landfill's remediation and monitoring systems, protect human health and public safety at each landfill, and accommodate local government needs and desires for land use at the qualified facility with consideration for health and safety requirements.

Metropolitan Council Approved Master Plans

The Metropolitan Council has approved Master Plans for Rum River Central Regional Park and Mississippi West Regional Park (future). These Master Plan Boundaries are reflected in the Future Land Use Map and within the Parks and Recreation Plan.

Figure 5: Master Plan Boundaries

Special Resources Plan

Ramsey has two (2) special resources within the community.

1. Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area
2. Old Town Hall
3. Garden Farme?

Figure 6: Special Resources

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has adopted new rules for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area. Ramsey is awaiting guidance from the DNR before updating our Comprehensive Plan for this section.

Old Town Hall

The former Ramsey Township Town Hall is the only structure within Ramsey on the National Historic Database. Ramsey is working with the Anoka County Historical Society to develop a long-term plan for this facility.

Garden Farme

Garden Farme is a unique agricultural use in the community. Focused on soil science and permaculture, all operations utilize manual labor. Garden Farme is owned and operated by Mr. Bruce Bacon. Garden Farme desires to establish a non-profit entity to continue the operation in the spirit of its current existence. The land that makes up Garden Farme has been in the Crandall family lineage since the early 1900s.

Planned Density

Table 3: Density Table

Land Use Category	Minimum Density	Maximum Density	Average Density
Rural Developing		0.4 units/acre	
Low Density Residential	2 units/acre	4 units/acre	3 units/acre
Medium Density Residential	3 units/acre	7 units/acre	6 units/acre
High Density Residential	7 units/acre	15 units/acre	12 units/acre

Table 4: Mixed Use Densities

Land Use Category	% Residential	% Commercial	% Office	Residential Density Range
Mixed Use				10-15 units/acre

Staged Development and Redevelopment

Development and Redevelopment is likely to focus on the following areas.

- Armstrong West/COR West
- Mississippi West
- Rum River Retail Node
- The COR
- Trott Brook North

Armstrong West/COR West

Armstrong West is a planning area generally north of Highway 10 and west of Armstrong Boulevard. This area is approximately 350 acres and is current a mix of agricultural land, vacant land, and industrial land. Planned future land uses include a retail redevelopment area of the current industrial park, business park, low density residential, medium density residential, high density residential, and rural developing. Development is expected to commence in 2018. Full build out is expected in the next ten (10) to fifteen (15) years.

Mississippi West

Mississippi West is a planning area generally south of Highway 10 between Armstrong Boulevard and Bowers Drive. This area is predominantly agricultural.

Planned land use within this area is predominantly low density residential, with an area of natural resource protection along the Mississippi River. Development of this area is likely ten (10) to fifteen (years) in the future due to availability of infrastructure (2015 to 2025 timeframe).

Connexus Energy is planning a thirty (30) acre solar farm within this planning district in 2018.

This area is also the location of a potential extension of Armstrong Boulevard to serve as a future river crossing to the City of Dayton. This improvement is not currently in official regional planning documents and is likely at least twenty (20) years away, if not longer. The cities of Dayton and Ramsey choose to plan for this long-term improvements to protect the necessary corridor.

Rum River Retail Node

The Rum River Retail Node is a 1970s area rural commercial node. This node has shown evidence of blight and vacancy, with some recent renovations of existing structures.

The COR

The COR is a 320-acre master-planned community located adjacent to the Northstar Commuter Rail – Ramsey Station. Together with adjacent developed and developable area, there are approximately 400 acres of development of a mix of uses. Goals for this development include an identity for the community, a destination for retail to support the local community, walkability, and supportive of commuter-rail transit.

The COR is approximately 50% complete, and is likely to experience substantial completion in the next ten (10) years. Ramsey is updating this plan as a separate planning document known as The COR Development Plan Update.

Trott Brook North

A significant area for future development of primarily Low Density Residential uses is planned for north of Trott Brook. Trott Brook is a significant ecological resource for the City to protect, and also serves as an important recreation corridor. This development area will represent the first area in the community north of Trott Brook to receive municipal services (water and sanitary sewer).

Immediately adjacent to this area is the site of a planned second elementary school operated by Anoka Hennepin School District #11.

Natural Resources

Ramsey has established a number of land use goals focused on natural resources.

- Enhanced Protection of Natural Resources
- Enhanced Recreation Opportunities in Natural Resource Areas
- Clean Water and Clean Air
- Reduced Waste Stream in Landfills

These goals are defined within the Natural Resources Plan

There are no known aggregate resources within the community.

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area

Portions of Ramsey are located within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA).

Land Use Implementation

The Metropolitan Council’s Regional Development Framework, ThriveMSP 2040, outlines roles for the Metropolitan Council and Ramsey for land use policy. Specific to land use policy, the Metropolitan Council has set a goal for the region to achieve Orderly and Efficient Land Use.

Ramsey Role	Metropolitan Council Role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and stage development for forecasted growth through 2040 and beyond at overall average net densities of at least 3-5 dwelling units per acre in the community. Target higher intensity developments in areas with better access to regional sewer and transportation infrastructure, connections to local commercial activity centers, transit facilities, and recreational amenities. • Ensure the efficient use of land when planning for and approving new developments and redevelopment projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local efforts and policies to plan for growth that efficiently uses transportation and transit infrastructure and regional services. • Promote land use patterns with clear distinctions between urban and rural areas to protect natural resources and land for agricultural viability. • Provide technical assistance to communities on land use strategies and staged development to inform the local comprehensive planning process. • Partner with local communities to improve land use patterns to reduce the generation of carbon emissions.

Action	Priority	Timeframe
Amend Official Zoning Map	Required	June 1, 2019
Amend Zoning Code	Required	December 31, 2019
Update The COR Development Plan	Immediate	December 31, 2018

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