

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Environmental Policy Board (EPB)
Monday, March 19, 2018
6:30 pm
The Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Citizen Input**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes**
 1. Approve Meeting Minutes Dated February 26, 2018
- 5. Policy Board Business**
 1. Review Updated Draft Natural Resources Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan
 2. Review Draft Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area Chapter of Comprehensive Plan
 3. Review Landscape and Tree Preservation Plans for Basalt Industrial (Project No. 18-105)
- 6. Board/Staff Input**
- 7. Adjournment**

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

4. 1.

Meeting Date: 03/19/2018

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Information

Title:

Approve Meeting Minutes Dated February 26, 2018

Action:

Attachments

Meeting Minutes Dated February 26, 2018

Form Review

Inbox

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 03/15/2018

Reviewed By

Tim Gladhill

Date

03/15/2018 04:27 PM

Started On: 03/15/2018 03:35 PM

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

On Monday, February 26, 2018, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Lake Itasca Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Planner Chris Anderson
 City Council Liaison John LeTourneau

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Stodola called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Bernard to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated December 18, 2017

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Trossen to approve the regular meeting minutes dated December 18, 2017.

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

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Review Sketch Plan for Centra Homes

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He reported that the City has received an application for Sketch Plan review of a detached townhome project proposed by Centra Homes. He stated that the residential project is located at the southwest corner of Ramsey Boulevard and Bunker Lake Boulevard and proposed 40 detached townhome units. He noted that this is not an item that requires action and is simply an opportunity for the Board to provide input.

Board Member Anderson asked if the City has worked with Centra Homes previously.

City Planner Anderson stated that although Centra has experience in surrounding communities, he is not aware of any projects within Ramsey.

Board Member Hiatt asked if these will be multi-level townhomes and asked whether there would be attached parking provided.

City Planner Anderson stated that he is unsure whether all the townhomes would be single level or multi-level homes. He noted that each unit would have an attached garage and driveway for parking. He also identified proposed visitor parking stalls on the plan.

Chairperson Stodola agreed that the units are so narrow that he could not imagine that parking could be provided for the units without an attached garage.

Board Member Hiatt asked and received confirmation that access would only be provided by the internal roadway and would not be accessible directly from Bunker Lake Boulevard or Ramsey Boulevard. He asked if there would be sufficient space to require trees in some fashion.

City Planner Anderson replied that there will be space for shrubs and small ornamental trees along Ramsey Boulevard, noting that the plantings will occur on the private property outside of the right-of-way. He explained that staff will advise the applicant to look at the adjacent developments in attempt to match the overall aesthetic and continue that.

Councilmember LeTourneau referenced the existing stand of evergreen trees at the corner of Ramsey Boulevard and Bunker Lake Boulevard and asked if there is a possibility to preserve that stand of trees.

City Planner Anderson agreed that would be a preference as that tree stand would act as a great buffer for the end units. He stated that at this time he is not sure of the applicant's plans for the trees in that area.

Councilmember LeTourneau proposed that language be added requesting that the applicant consider preserving that tree stand as the project moves forward. He noted that perhaps the trees are within the right-of-way and would not then be able to be proposed.

City Planner Anderson noted that the right-of-way boundary shown on this sketch is an estimate. He noted that the trees would not have to be removed simply because they are within the right-of-

way and explained that the County simply does not want additional trees planted in the right-of-way.

Chairperson Stodola noted that there may be some impact to the roots upon construction.

Councilmember LeTourneau asked if there are additional trees on the property that could be preserved.

City Planner Anderson replied that he does not believe that there are additional trees on the property that would meet the City definition of significant trees. He stated that much of the land within The COR has a number of smaller Siberian Elm trees, which is an invasive species, and therefore he would not put the same emphasis on preservation of those trees. He stated that a tree inventory will be done as part of the initial submittal and then the Board will have a better understanding of the mature trees that exist. He explained that the removal of invasive species is excluded from the calculations done for the tree preservation plan.

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Hiatt to encourage the developer to preserve the existing stand of evergreen trees to the extent possible.

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

5.02: Consider Arbor Day Project(s)

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has yet to receive confirmation but noted that the necessary documentation was submitted to be recognized once again as a Tree City USA. He stated that this will be Ramsey's 26th consecutive year being recognized. He noted that one of the aspects of being a Tree City USA involves an observance of Arbor Day. He stated that when the City stopped hosting the Environmental Expo event, the Board expressed a desire to see a broader effort put toward observing and celebrating Arbor Day. He advised that there are a couple opportunities available to recognize and observe Arbor Day. He noted that the purpose of this case is to summarize the opportunities to the Board and gauge the interest of the Board in participating.

Board Member Bernard stated that he likes both ideas, specifically mentioning the pollinator packet idea.

City Planner Anderson stated that there was a small-scale planting event along the Lake Itasca Trail as part of the Mayors for Monarchs program which included removal of invasive species, a prescribed burn, and will conclude with pollinator friendly plantings.

Chairperson Stodola asked if both projects would be an option or whether a decision would have to be made.

City Planner Anderson clarified that this would not be an either/or decision and advised that both projects could occur. He noted that he would also welcome additional activities. He advised that the City could obtain the packets at no cost to the City. He provided additional details on a previous planting event that took place two years ago. He noted that the event was scheduled on a night of

the regular Park and Recreation Commission meeting with a back up date set for the date of the regular EPB meeting.

Board Member Bernard stated that he is involved in youth athletics and could find a baseball team or two that could volunteer their services in planting.

Board Member Hiatt stated that the Anoka High School football team is always looking for projects and perhaps that would be an option.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that the parks department already works in collaboration with the football team on spring volunteer projects. He commented that it would be great to have the involvement of the youth athletics. He noted that ideally, he would also like participation from the Board, especially if there will be a number of children assisting in the plantings.

Chairperson Stodola stated to his recollection the Board has not officially been involved in a project in a while.

City Planner Anderson replied that the Board was invited to the planting event that took place in 2016 and advised of some smaller projects that the Board was invited to be a part of going back further into the past. He stated that with the addition of a new city planner in the planning department, he should have additional time to assist with these types of events and to put more effort towards the Board's workplan.

Councilmember LeTourneau asked the scale of the distance and width of plantings and asked if one packet would be enough. He stated that he would want to ensure that the density is sufficient to cover factors like loss.

City Planner Anderson stated that there is sufficient width to make this work, even as the plants grow, without encroaching on private property. He agreed that there will be some mortality due to lack of precipitation and deer. He stated that the pollinator packet is 500 while the seedlings come in packets of 100. He stated that if the Board is in agreement with this, he would work more on the calculations to ensure the proper amount is gained.

Councilmember LeTourneau asked if there is some commitment from City staff to ensure maintenance of the plantings for perhaps a period of one year.

City Planner Anderson stated that he would feel safe stating that the parks staff could water if the conditions are dry. He noted that while the watering would not be a daily activity, he was hopeful he could ensure some level of commitment.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that a level of commitment from the parks staff for ongoing maintenance would help to secure a buy-in from the community in this project.

City Planner Anderson noted that he will have a conversation with the parks staff. He stated that staff would not want this to turn into an eyesore either with dead plantings lining the trail.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that if this project is a success, it would be nice to continue the effort along other trails in the City in the future.

City Planner Anderson asked if there are any other ideas for events for this year or future years. He clarified that this would not become like the previous expo, where that is the main focus of the Board, but is simply looking for events that would promote the work and ambition of the Board.

Board Member Valentine stated that he likes the idea of doing plantings, whether that is trees or pollinator plantings. He stated that there are so many variations that could be built upon. He asked for additional details on the scale of 500 plants and whether that would be enough plants. He believed that plantings would be a great place to start and could evolve into other planting projects, like raingardens, in the future.

City Planner Anderson provided additional details on the seedlings that have been supplied in the past. He stated that if properly planted, the seedlings will grow and need room to grow.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Select Winning 2017 Photo – Nature of Ramsey Category**

City Planner Anderson thanked the Board Members that submitted votes for the photo contest. He provided background information on the photo contest which was implemented in 2017, noting that the EPB was chosen to vote on the category of Nature in Ramsey. He displayed the photographs from the category and identified the top three photographs that garnered the most votes. He noted that while he did not have the final tally, the parks department staff will determine the winning photo per the votes submitted by the Board.

- **Staff Updates**

City Planner Anderson provided background information on wetland banking and credits that City staff received. He stated that the City will once again host three recycling events this year. He noted that a pilot was done last year adding a third event and because that third event did not impact the materials received at the other events, they will continue to host spring, summer, and fall recycling events.

Councilmember LeTourneau asked if the summer event was as well attended as the spring and fall events.

City Planner Anderson stated that he did not have the calculations off-hand but agreed that there was less traffic at the summer event. He stated that even though there was less traffic at the summer event, the tonnage of materials received was equal to the fall event. He stated that because this last summer was the first time the summer recycling event was held, participation may increase as residents become more aware of the event. He noted that the Board will begin meeting in the Council Chambers beginning in March and the meetings will now be televised. He explained that the EPB and EDA were the only two groups that were not televised and therefore the Council made the decision to televise the meetings for those groups to provide additional transparency to the residents.

City Planner Anderson stated that the City has currently partnered with the University of Minnesota Resilient Communities Program. He noted that the fall semester projects have been

completed and the spring courses have now been matched up with projects. He noted that the projects that matched with classes included organics recycling, sustainable initiatives, and recognition of businesses that lead the way in recycling. He noted that Coborn's received an award from Anoka County for their efforts in recycling the previous year. He advised that PACT Charter School was also recognized the previous year for their efforts with organics recycling. He stated that there is another project matched with an urban forestry class to complete a public tree survey. He noted that this is something he has wanted to accomplish in the City for the past several years, especially as it would assist with planning for potential impacts from Emerald Ash Borer. He stated that he would be looking for volunteers to assist in collection of the data. He explained that the students would provide the necessary training so that volunteers could get out on the ground to collect data. He noted that the training is tentatively scheduled for April and would include classroom time on the initial date and then some field training on a second date. He stated that the data collection would presumably occur in May, as long as conditions allow.

Councilmember LeTourneau asked if the students would also include recommendations for planning with the knowledge that is gained.

City Planner Anderson stated that once he is given the data from the students, he would then take that information and prepare other planning documents with more accurate information. He welcomed interested Board Members to participate. He noted that the students will also be reaching out to other community groups such as the Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, Parks Commission and City Council.

Councilmember LeTourneau suggested reaching out to the Ramsey Garden Club.

Board Member Valentine stated that for the past six weeks he has been working with a metro wide steering committee working on the Metro Environmental Commissioners Conference, which is an effort to get groups like the EPB together to talk about common interests. He stated that a program has been scheduled for April 7th and noted that as more information is available, City Planner Anderson will provide that information to the Board. He stated that it seems like this would be a good opportunity for the Board to participate in and will feature topics that the Board has been discussing. He stated that the event will be held at the Hennepin Methodist Church in Minneapolis and will have free parking and no admission fee. He noted that there are other larger communities in the metro area and it will be a good opportunity for the Board to gain that shared input.

Chairperson Stodola asked for an update on the organics recycling program and whether participation has declined in the winter months.

City Planner Anderson provided an update on the organics recycling program. He stated that the last calculation that he had measured about three tons of material that has been diverted from garbage to the organics recycling. He noted that is a pretty amazing figure considering the small amount of publicity the program has had thus far. He noted that the locks were removed during the winter because the locks were freezing in the colder temperatures. He stated that to his knowledge there has not been any contamination.

Chairperson Stodola stated that he makes deliveries maybe every other week and has not noticed any materials that would not be eligible for the organics recycling.

City Planner Anderson provided updates on other recycling activity including cardboard recycling that was done and the annual holiday lights recycling.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 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: 03/19/2018

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Information

Title:

Review Updated Draft Natural Resources Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to 'check in' with the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) on the draft Natural Resources Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. As Staff continues to work on this chapter, we wanted to provide the EPB with another opportunity to review and provide input/feedback on the document prior to the third and final public open house on the overall Comprehensive Plan Update, which is scheduled for Monday, April 9, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Alexander Ramsey Room. This continues to be an iterative process and this will not be the last time the EPB reviews this chapter.

Action:

Provide input and recommendations on the draft Chapter.

Attachments

Natural Resources Plan

Form Review

Inbox

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 03/15/2018

Reviewed By

Tim Gladhill

Date

03/15/2018 04:27 PM

Started On: 03/15/2018 11:55 AM

City of Ramsey 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

Natural Resources Plan

Background on this Document

This document is a draft of the narrative to be used in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update. This is not a final version or actual layout. This document will be reviewed and revised multiple times. The City will try to add additional maps and figures to better tell the story of this vision.

Add existing background info from current Comp Plan here.

Our Vision

Ramsey will evolve through citizen-driven, collaborative processes that respect the balance and connectivity between its unique urban, rural, and natural environment for current and future generations.

Goals and Strategies

The following represents goals and strategies for the management of natural resources. Subsequent chapters will include their own goals and strategies that integrate with the above. Resources above and beyond current budget approvals are indicated in the 'Additional Resources' column.

Comprehensive Plan Strategic Imperatives

- A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth
- An Active Community (Parks, Recreation, and Open Space)
- A Connected Community (Transportation)
- A Positive Learning Environment

Initiatives for the Natural Resources Plan

A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth

- Ensure sustainability of food supply and food web
- Maintain and enhance the public community forest (boulevard tree program)
- Reduce erosion along both the Mississippi and Rum Rivers
- Preserve significant ecological resources through conservation design.
- Improve Sustainability and Resilience

An Active Community

- Improve recreation opportunities along the City's Priority Greenway Plan
- Improve water quality of Mississippi River

A Connected Community

- Improve connections to significant ecological resources

A Positive Learning Environment

- Improve awareness for groundwater planning
- Improve awareness for solid waste reduction

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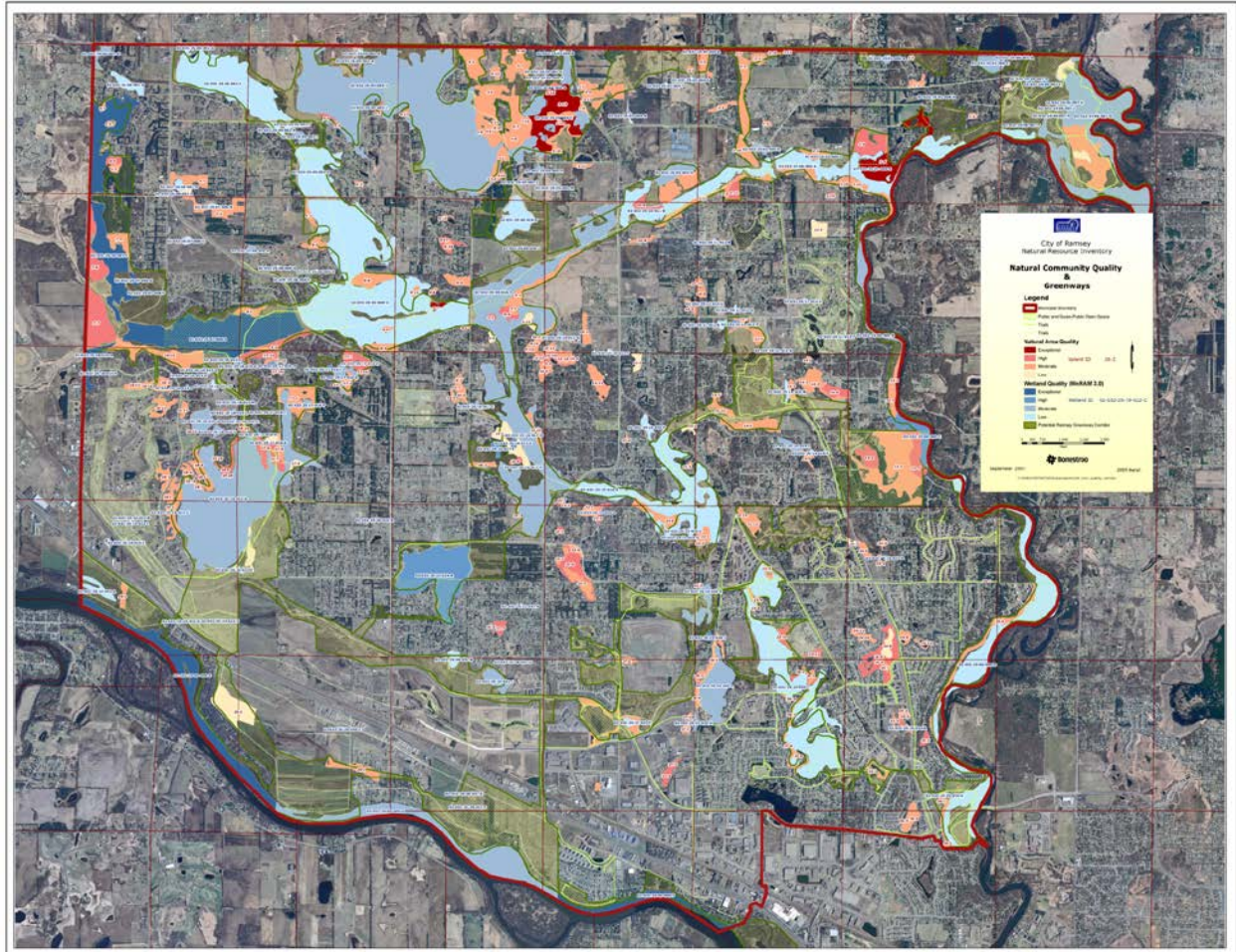
2030 Plan Accomplishments

Before looking forward to what Ramsey will strive to accomplish within the timeframe of this Comprehensive Plan, it is always good to pause and look back to what it was able to accomplish over during the course of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The last plan was adopted in 2010. While a number of factors have changed since the adoption of the last plan, the City can celebrate a number of successes as it relates to natural resources. Subsequent chapters of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan will celebrate their own successes.

- Relied on the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) to inform recommendations on subdivision design and areas of focused protection/preservation where feasible.
- Purchased two (2) Weed Wrenches to assist property owners with managing and eradicating certain invasive species, specifically Buckthorn.
- Protected Ramsey's rural character in many areas of the community, representing the largest land area category in the community.
- Mitigated City's financial risks associated by new developments by encouraging new development to focus near existing infrastructure.
- Ensured new development protected natural resources, made trail connections, and blended in with surrounding development.
- Employed conservation subdivision practices intended to protect existing neighborhoods and natural resources.
- Struck a balance between land use planning, policy development, natural resource protection, and private property rights.
- Refined the Tree Preservation Ordinance to establish a reforestation standard and proactively began working with developers to establish street trees rather than just front yard trees.
- Encouraged stormwater management systems/plans that incorporate rain harvesting techniques (reducing the demand on and use of groundwater for irrigation) and rain gardens (to promote infiltration and groundwater recharge).
- Employed new strategies to help residents recycle additional materials and divert more materials from landfills.
- Implemented an organics recycling drop-off program for residents.
- Secured grant funds to establish a 'mini-arboretum' of tree species native to Minnesota in North Commons.
- Continued to maintain the Tree City USA designation (twenty-five [25] years and counting).
- Updated the Floodplain Ordinance and adopted new Flood Insurance Rate Maps to remain compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Adopted an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan.

Existing Natural Resources

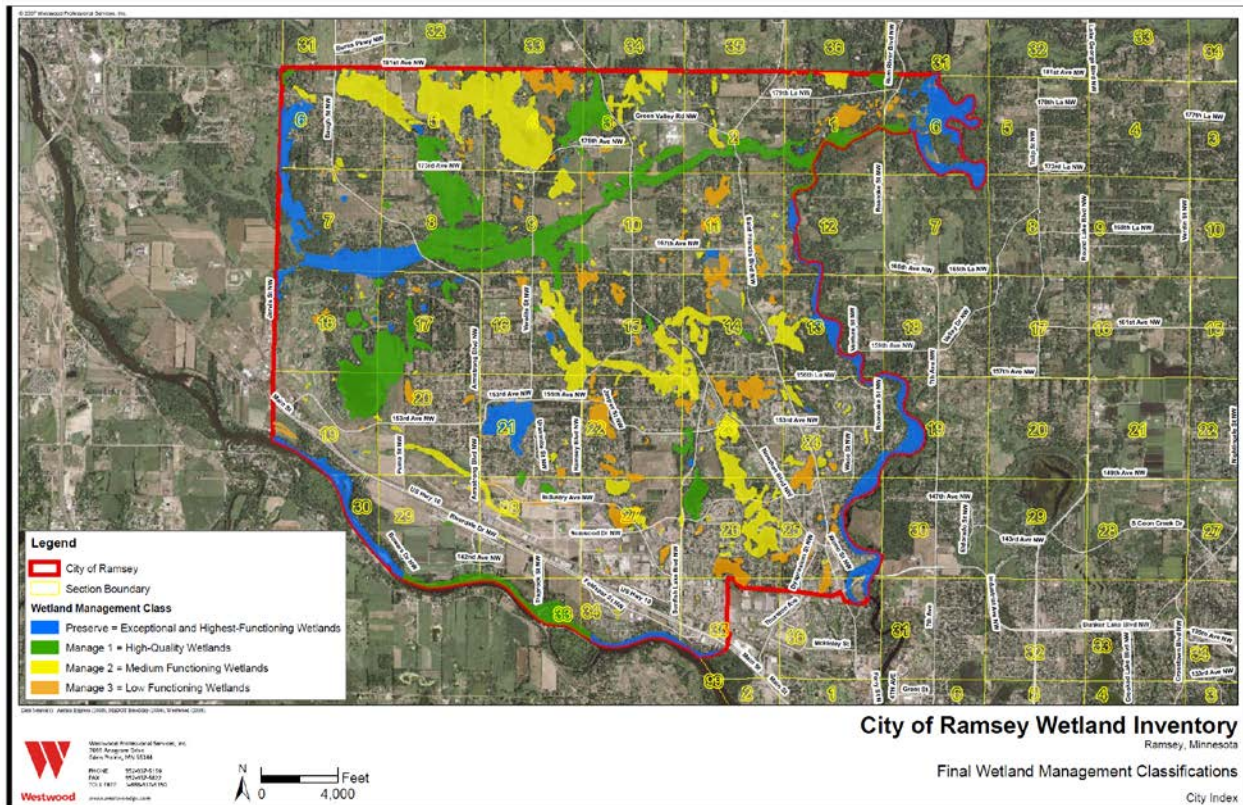
Existing Natural Resource Quality



The City's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), which was completed in 2007, is relied upon to help inform good land use policy as it relates to stewardship of our natural resources. While wetlands are generally protected from modification by both state and federal regulations, that is not the case with high value upland areas. The NRI therefore provides a good baseline of data that helps inform Ramsey's review of proposed developments. The NRI also assists in identifying areas that may warrant greater protection from development and/or may be suitable candidate(s) for enhancement or expansion.

As part of the NRI, potential greenway corridors were identified. Thus, in addition to providing insight to the potential presence of higher value natural areas, the NRI can also be utilized as a reference and guide for critical corridor connections. As Ramsey continues to experience development pressures, the NRI will eventually need to be 'recalibrated' to ensure that it is still a meaningful and reliable data source.

Existing Wetland Quality



In 2006, Ramsey completed a Wetland Inventory utilizing the Minnesota Routine Assessment Method (MnRAM) to accompany a now repealed wetland buffer ordinance. While the wetland buffer standards are no longer codified, the Wetland Inventory is still relied upon to understand what, if any, impacts proposed development may have, especially regarding wetlands classified as high and exceptional.

Natural Resource Initiatives and Pilot Projects

Ramsey has completed a number of natural resource initiatives and pilot projects in recent years. Key programs include, but are not limited to the following.

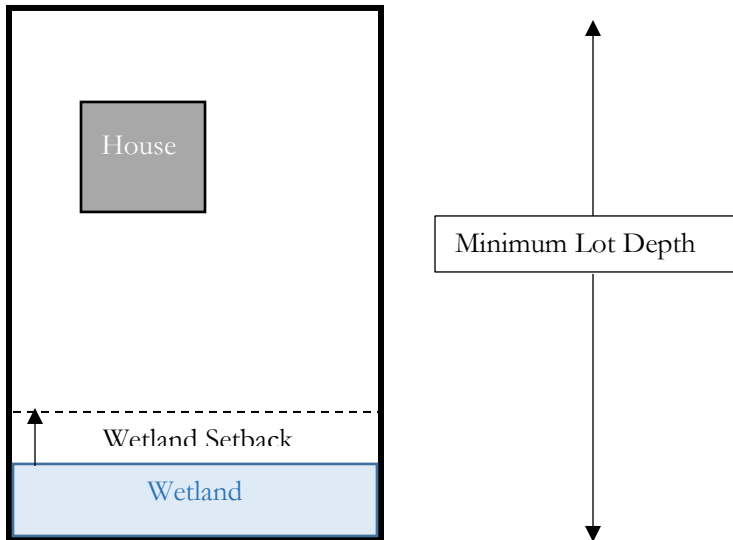
- Buildable Area Standards
- Pollinator Friendly Habitat
- Shoreline Protection

Buildable Area Standards

In 2016, the City adopted new standards related to lot depth as well as instituted a wetland setback. The purpose of both of these standards was to ensure that newly created lots would actually have sufficient buildable and usable area to accommodate typical homeowner additions, such as a deck, small shed, a yard to play in, etc. Too often, homeowners attempting to make improvements to their property were discovering that there was not sufficient space to accommodate a new deck, a detached accessory building, or even to establish what they viewed as a usable backyard. This was creating a lot of frustration on their part and was also resulting in code violations as well. By implementing these new standards, it not only assured that each newly created lot would have buildable and/or usable space beyond the footprint of their home, but also

helped to protect wetlands both from being filled in as well as from a water quality stand point (more filtration of runoff before entering the wetland).

Figure 1: Buildable Area and Wetland Setback Example



Pollinator Friendly Habitat

The City desires to encourage more pollinator friendly habitat for a multitude of reasons. First and foremost, Ramsey desires to ensure the sustainability of food supply and the food web, which relies heavily on pollinators. By promoting pollinator friendly practices and initiatives, the City not only helps foster the concept of local food through opportunities such as a local farmer's market, but also encourages the protection, restoration, and/or establishment of pollinator habitat.

Broadly speaking, pollinator habitat generally consists of native plants, shrubs and trees. Native species are generally more drought tolerant and require fewer inputs, such as water (irrigation) and chemicals (fertilizers and herbicides). Thus, by establishing more pollinator friendly habitat, the demand on groundwater for irrigation purposes should decrease. Furthermore, the reduced need for chemical applications should lower the potential of groundwater and/or surface water contamination from inappropriate application of these products on the landscape.

Protecting, restoring, and/or establishing pollinator habitat also creates habitat for a variety of wildlife. Where feasible, conglomerations of pollinator friendly landscapes can become the basis for wildlife corridors and potentially even a greenway corridor. Even small patches, such as a backyard butterfly garden, of pollinator friendly habitat can be beneficial for many pollinators whose populations are declining as habitat loss continues to increase.

Mayors for Monarchs

The City has taken the Mayors for Monarchs Pledge to affirm its support not only for the iconic monarch butterfly, but also for pollinators in general, whose habitat continues to be fragmented and/or destroyed.

Figure 2: Mayors for Monarchs Background



Mayors for Monarchs

Many people may not realize that Monarch butterflies play an important role in pollinating various plants, including many of our food crops. But their population has declined by more than 90% in the last two decades. That is why it is important to create special habitats for these pollinators in our yards and gardens. Recently, the City of Ramsey adopted a resolution to support pollinator initiatives throughout our community.



Ramsey Mayor, Sarah Strommen, launched the initiative by signing the Mayors for Monarchs Pledge to support Monarch butterflies in our community by implementing efforts to create, restore, and protect pollinator habitat and encouraging our citizens to do the same in their own backyards. The Mayors for Monarchs Pledge Signing event took place on June 6, 2017 at the Lake Itasca Trailhead in Ramsey.

At the pledge signing event Mayor Strommen designated a new "Monarch Trail" along the Lake Itasca Trail corridor. Together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the City of Ramsey will be restoring six and a half acres of land along this trail to a natural habitat designed to support Monarch butterflies and other important pollinators.



Students from Youth First Community of Promise were there to jump-start the project by planting a small section of native plant plugs at this event, which was representative of the larger-scale planting that will happen this fall.

Fourth grade students from Ramsey Elementary also contributed to the event by creating 150 colorful butterflies, which served as the backdrop for this event and will also be on display in the Ramsey City Hall in honor of National Pollinator Week, June 19 - 25, 2017.

If you are interested in learning more about the Monarch butterfly, be sure to check out Ramsey Parks & Recreation's Monarch Lab on July 25. Visit www.cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents for more information on how to register.

City of **RAMSEY**

Lake Itasca Monarch Trail

In the summer of 2017, the City designated a portion of the Lake Itasca Trail as a Monarch Trail. This was in conjunction with the Mayor's Monarch Pledge proclamation. The Monarch Trail includes roughly seven (7) acres of land on both sides of an existing, well used trail segment along Lake Itasca. A ceremonial planting of a mixture of plugs was completed in the summer of 2017. Site preparations occurred over the following fall, winter and spring seasons. This included a prescribed burn to eliminate non-native and undesirable vegetation (forbs/grasses) and removal of red cedar and Siberian elms within approximately 100 feet of the trail. The site was then seeded with species favored by monarch butterflies and other pollinators. This project converted fallow land into a native, pollinator friendly landscape that abuts a heavily used walking/biking trail in the community. Thus, it not only created new habitat but also did so in a location that would be highly visible to the community.

Figure 3: Lake Itasca Monarch Trail

DRAFT



Ramsey Park Monarch Trail



0 55 110 220 330 440 Feet

— Trail
(2,000 Feet)

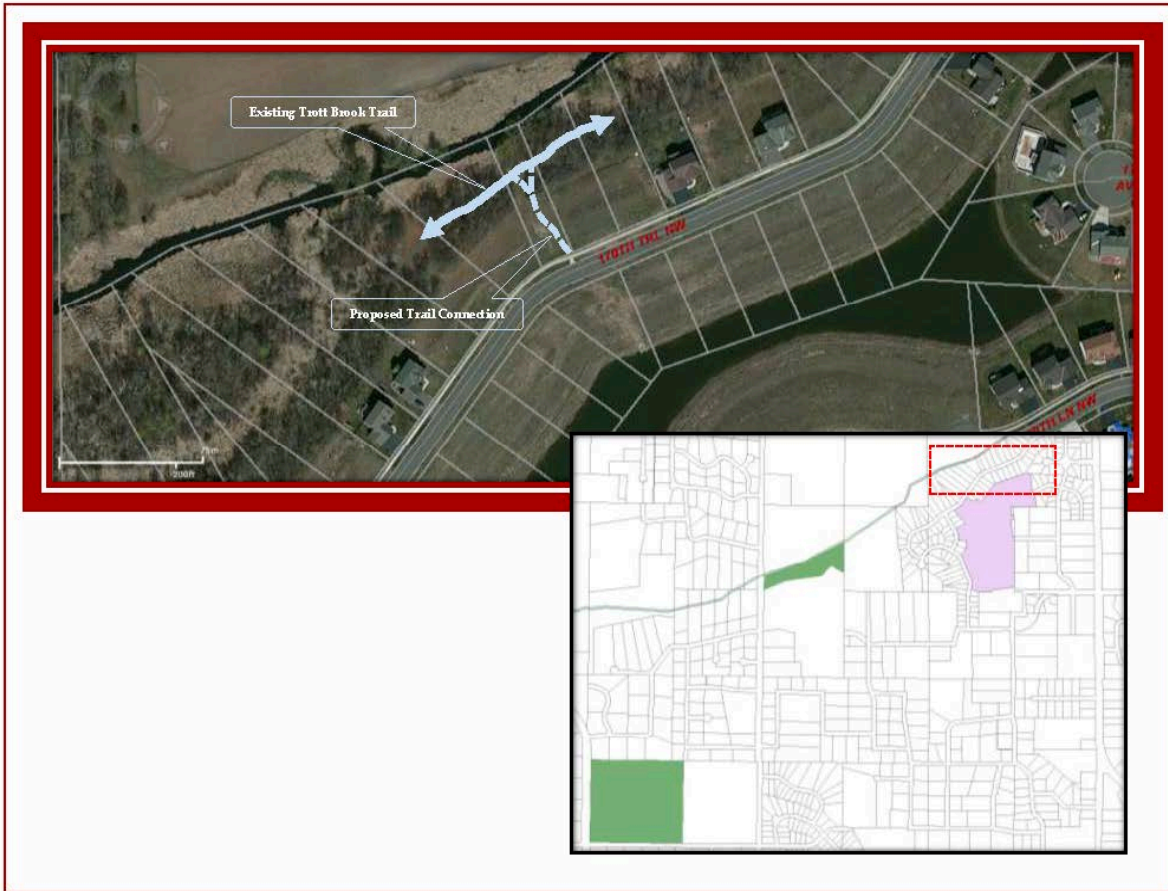
□ Pollinator Buffer
(6.5 Acres)

Produced by:
USFWS MNPLD
434 Great Oak Drive
Waltke Park, MN 55387
(320) 253-4682
Current through 2017

Brookfield Trail Connection

In 2016, Ramsey identified an opportunity to create a new trail connection to the Trott Brook Trail, a very popular walking/biking trail that parallels Trott Brook. There were multiple facets to this project that, in concert, would improve mobility, create pollinator friendly habitat, promote infiltration and improve water quality. The new trail segment provided a ‘mid-block’ connection to the existing Trott Brook Trail. Since the existing pedestrian ramp was at the low spot in the road, an opportunity existed to incorporate a rain garden

into this project to promote infiltration and groundwater recharge while also improving the water quality of a large stormwater pond that serves as a ‘water feature amenity’ for this neighborhood also. Finally, rather than installing a typically turfgrass landscape that would require irrigation and regular, routine maintenance (mowing), a native, pollinator friendly landscape was established on both sides of the trail. This creates not only additional habitat for pollinators, but also will result in year round interest and variability in the viewshed.



Shoreline Protection

The Mississippi River and Rum River experience significant erosion that poses a threat to individual properties and water quality as well. The Anoka Conservation District completed an inventory of the Mississippi River shoreline in December of 2015 to assess the severity of erosion. While a formal shoreline erosion inventory has not been completed on the Rum River, the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO), along with City Staff, do conduct annual inspections to identify potential erosion concerns (as well as potential violations of the Wild and Scenic River Overlay District).

One of the primary impetuses for the formal inventory of the Mississippi River shoreline was to identify the most problematic properties and to use that data to solicit funding assistance.

Acceptable Shoreline Stabilization Techniques

There are a number of potential acceptable stabilization techniques that can be employed. While Ramsey would look for guidance from other, more technically specialized agencies, such as the Anoka Conservation District, some potentially acceptable techniques may include:

- Vegetation
- Natural Barriers
- Rip Rap
- Wing Dams
- Other

Oftentimes, a combination of techniques may be necessary. However, each site likely will have specific conditions or circumstances that will, at least in part, determine which method(s) will be most effective.

New Preservation Efforts

Moving forward, Ramsey desires to enhance efforts in two (2) main categories.

1. Groundwater Supply Preservation
2. Solid Waste Reduction
3. Access to Solar
4. Alternative Energy
5. Greenway Planning
6. Water Quality
7. Public Realm Landscaping

Groundwater Supply Preservation

Ramsey desires to protect the quantity and quality of our groundwater supply and aquifers. The City will accomplish this goal with two (2) broad strategies.

1. Programs, Incentives, and Rebates
2. Educational Initiatives

Solid Waste Reduction

Ramsey contracts with a single hauler for curbside service for single-family residential. This not only helps with participation rates and education, but also helps reduce the number of trucks traversing local streets (less wear and tear and likely reduces air pollutants as well). The curbside program provides collection of recyclables on an every other week (EOW) schedule. Ramsey is divided into an east side and west side for collection purposes, generally along Sunfish Lake Blvd and Nowthen Blvd (with all residential properties south of Highway 10 being considered west).

In 2014, State Statute 115A.551 (Recycling) was amended to specify that by December 31, 2030, each metropolitan county will have a goal to recycle seventy-five percent (75%), by weight, of the total solid waste generated. Furthermore, it states that counties will develop or require political subdivisions within the county to develop and implement programs, practices, and/or methods designed to achieve this goal.

In recognition of this aggressive goal, Ramsey has created new and/or additional opportunities for residents to properly dispose of recyclable materials. This includes expanding the list of acceptable materials collected during Ramsey's Recycling Day events, which now accepts carpet, carpet padding, textiles, motor oil, oil filters, and antifreeze. Additionally, Ramsey has added a third Recycling Day (summer) event to provide an

additional opportunity for residents to properly dispose of materials generally not accepted through the curbside program.

After review of a recent metropolitan waste sort (completed for Hennepin County in 2016), it is clear that organic materials represent the largest component remaining in trash. This represents a potential opportunity to boost Ramsey's recycling tonnage, which led the city to implement an organics recycling drop-off program.

Ramsey is providing 'starter kits' at no cost to encourage residents to participate in this program. There are carts located at the Public Works Campus for participants to drop off their organics. Ramsey is continuing to explore various options to expand and improve the organics program. This could include a larger scale drop-off site and/or a curbside program is yet another attempt to increase the amount of material diverted from the trash to the recycling stream.



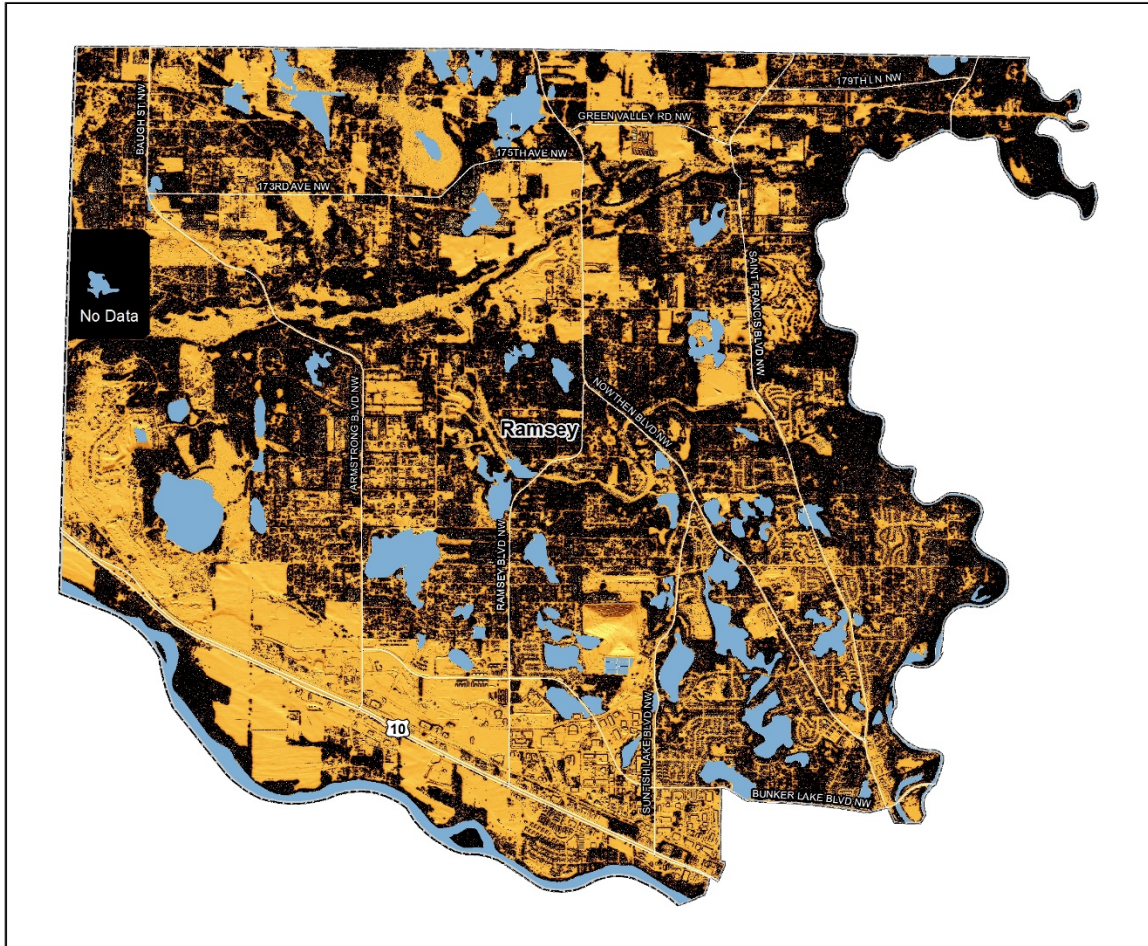
The greatest opportunity to realize significant gains in recycling, however, will likely come from the commercial sector. While Ramsey's recycling program is focused on the residential sector, primarily based on how the program is funded (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment, aka SCORE), Anoka County does work with the commercial sector. They have partnered with Minnesota Waste Wise to conduct waste audits for interested commercial entities and guidance on how to increase recycling and reduce waste (and possibly costs too). Ramsey supports this work and will continue to explore opportunities to educate and assist the commercial sector with waste reduction measures where feasible.



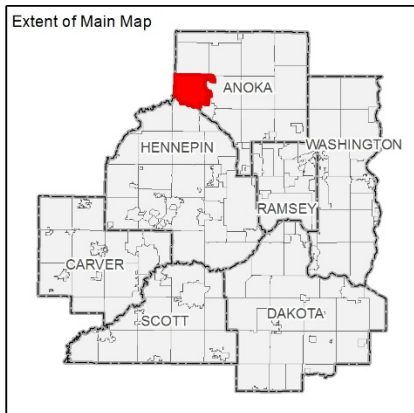
Access to Solar

In the mid-2010s, Ramsey amended its Zoning Code to permit both ground mounted and building mounted solar arrays as an accessory use in any zoning district. This created the possibility for both the residential and commercial/industrial sectors to lawfully install solar energy systems if they so desired. In 2017, Ramsey amended its Zoning Code again to identify solar energy systems as a principal use with the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit within the Public/Quasi-Public zoning district.

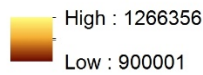
Gross Solar Potential City of Ramsey, Anoka County



1/5/2017



Gross Solar Potential (Watt-hours per Year)



- Solar Potential under 900,000 watt-hours per year
- County Boundaries
- City and Township Boundaries
- Wetlands and Open Water Features

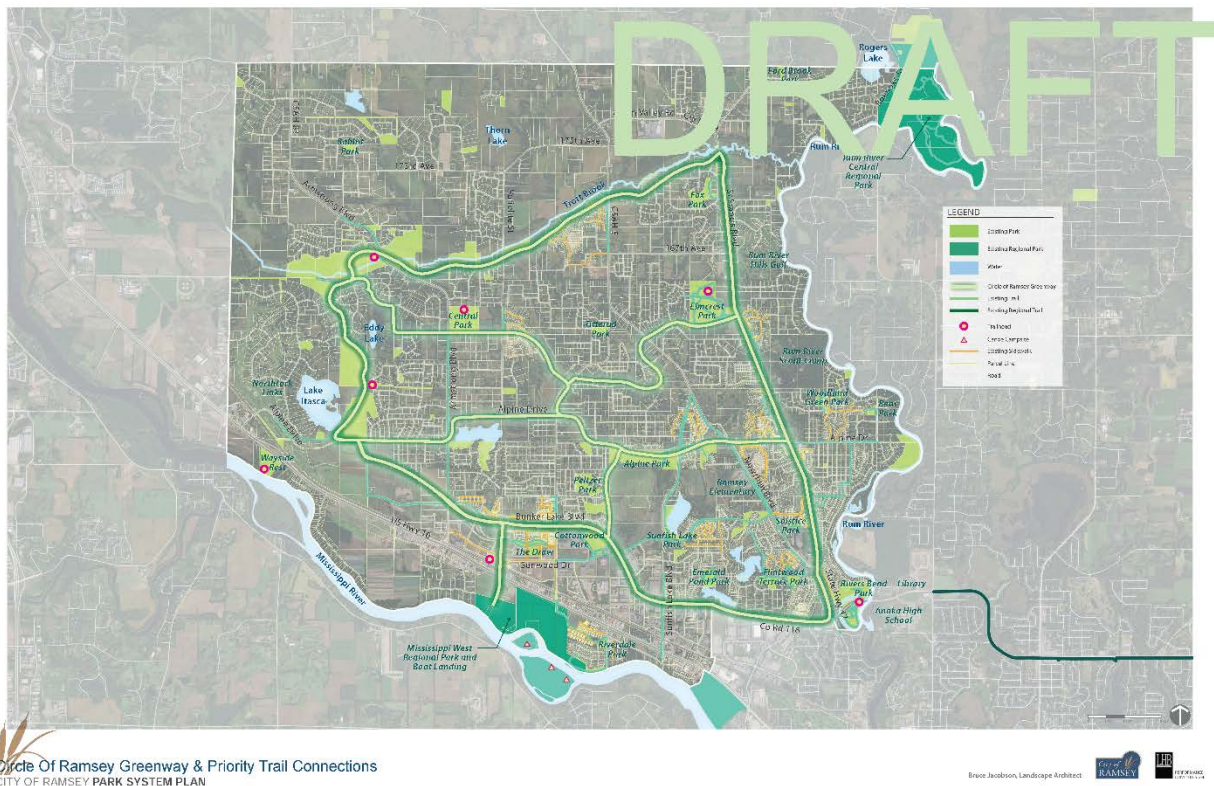
Source: University of Minnesota U-Spatial Statewide Solar Raster.

Alternative Energy

Ramsey recognizes the growing field of renewable energy sources and has taken steps over the past decade to include provisions in the Zoning Code that govern their installation. In addition to solar energy systems (as addressed above), Ramsey also permits, under certain conditions, Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) and Ground Source Heat Pumps. Ramsey will continue to monitor the evolution of alternative energies and, where appropriate and supported by the community, will contemplate zoning amendments to avoid unintentionally prohibiting their installation.

Greenway Planning

Ramsey has developed a robust system of parks and trails. Trail connectivity is a key metric of success for our community. Ramsey desires to continue our tradition of prudent trail planning, connecting important recreational and ecological resources. In order to prioritize limited resources to accomplish this goal, Ramsey has prioritized important trail connections around the 'Circle of Ramsey' connecting our system of Community Parks.



Water Quality

Chlorides (de-icing salts) are a growing concern, not only in Ramsey but across the state, due to their likely impact on water quality. Ramsey is committed to exploring opportunities to reduce the quantities of de-icing salts used on roadways as long as it does not negatively impact safety. Options that could be considered or further investigated include an outright reduction in salt applied to roadways and parking lots, installation of pervious pavement and/or pervious concrete roads, alternative road surfaces (e.g. 'solar' roads that aid in melting snow), etc.

Public Realm Landscaping

Ramsey is committed to growing its boulevard/street tree program. A well designed urban forest addresses several of the key imperatives that were identified throughout the public engagement process. Boulevard trees aid with reducing stormwater runoff (improved water quality and increased infiltration). As Ramsey continues to develop, it will inevitably result in a greater number of vehicles on the roads. Boulevard trees will help filter out pollutants and other particulates from the air while also having a traffic calming effect. Boulevard trees also add economic and aesthetic value to neighborhoods and commercial districts.

University of Minnesota Resilient Communities Project

During the 2017-2018 Academic School Year, Ramsey partnered with the University of Minnesota's Resilient Communities Project (RCP) to advance resilience planning and goals. A summary of the projects evaluated during the academic year is found below. Project reports are available upon requests. Many of the recommendations from the RCP partnership are integrated into this document's goals and implementation strategies.



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROJECT

What is the Resilient Communities Project?

The Resilient Communities Project (RCP) is a cross-disciplinary program at the University of Minnesota whose mission is to connect communities in Minnesota with University faculty and students to advance local sustainability and resilience through collaborative, course-based projects. Ultimately, RCP strives to:

- build local capacity to address community sustainability and resilience issues
- train students to be future sustainability practitioners in their fields
- produce case studies, tool kits, and other resources that advance sustainability and resilience practice at the community scale

How does RCP work?

Each academic year, RCP selects a partner community (typically a city, county, or tribal government) through a competitive process. RCP collaborates with the selected community to identify between 5 and 30 projects—based on community identified environmental, social, and economic issues and needs—that will advance local sustainability and resilience. Then, RCP serves as a matchmaker, strategically connecting the community's projects with existing U of MN courses that can provide appropriate research or technical assistance.

Staff and stakeholders from our partner communities work closely with faculty and students to provide local knowledge and deeper insight into the issues, ensuring the work students undertake is relevant to the community context. Outcomes from each University course are documented in a final report and presentation at the conclusion of the semester. Project results are shared with the community, and disseminated through RCP's website for use by other communities.

What are the benefits to students of collaborating with RCP?

- Efficient access to high-quality and well-organized community projects
- Experience applying your knowledge and skills to real-world issues
- Opportunities to build your resume or portfolio for future job interviews
- Potential to meaningfully advance local sustainability and resilience
- Local and regional visibility and recognition for your work
- Opportunities to network with local government and industry professionals



For more information:

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Resilient Communities Project
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover



RCP-RAMSEY PROJECTS, 2017-2018



For the 2017-2018 academic year, RCP is collaborating with the City of Ramsey on 20 projects that will engage dozens of U of MN courses and hundreds of students to provide information, ideas, and new perspectives on locally identified sustainability and resilience issues.

Community Identity and Engagement

Every Voice Matters
Resident Engagement and Volunteerism Plan
A Gathering Place for Community
Community Center Plan
Sustaining Our Legacy
Historic Town Hall Plan
Creating Community Identity
Branding and Marketing Plan

Land Use and Transportation

Highway 10: A Community and Regional Focal Point
U.S. Highway 10 Corridor Plan
Connecting Ramsey
City-Wide Greenway Plan
A Gathering Within: An Attraction Beyond
The CDR Development Plan Update
Paying for Future Infrastructure Needs
Development Fee Study

Environmental Stewardship

Integrating Resources into Our Future
Natural Resources Management and Outreach Plan
Preventing Flood Damage and Disaster
Floodplain Communications Plan
Reduce Waste, Reuse Resources
Organics Recycling Plan
Clean Water, Clean Soil
Septic System Communications Plan
Will the Faucet Turn On?
Water Conservation Toolkit
Restoring Our Shore
Mississippi Shoreline Plan

Housing and Economic Development

Encouraging Small Business Growth and Expansion
Business Incubator Plan
Creating Housing Opportunities for All Generations
Housing Plan
Creating Destination
Retail Market Analysis

Administration

Protecting Our Investments
Asset Management Plan
Sustaining Our Team
Employee Development Plan
Employee Benefits for the Next Generation
Employee Benefits Plan

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Photos by Steve Schmeider, Mike Greco, and Robert Colwell.

RCP is a program of the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA).

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Direct requests to rcp@umn.edu or 612-625-7501.

♻️ Printed on recycled and recyclable paper with at least 10 percent postconsumer waste material.

Natural Resources Implementation

Imperative #1: A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth

Initiative #1.1: Ensure sustainability of food supply and food web

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Promote pollinator friendly landscape practices	Immediate	Community Development	

Initiative #1.2: Maintain and enhance the community forest

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Develop a boulevard tree program	Long Term	Community Development	

Initiative #1.3: Reduce erosion along shorelines

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Create a Shoreline Protection Plan for the Mississippi River	Immediate	Community Development	
Create a Shoreline Protection Plan for the Rum River	Immediate	Community Development	

Initiative #1.4: Preserve significant ecological resources during development

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Create a Conservation Subdivision Design Policy	Long Term	Community Development	
Create an Overlay District for Trott Brook	Long Term	Community Development	
Implement the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Areal Plan	Immediate	Community Development	

Initiative #1.5: Improve Sustainability and Resilience

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Create a Community Resiliency Plan	Long Term	Community Development	TBD

Imperative#2: An Active Community

Initiative #2.1: Improve recreation opportunities along the City's Priority Greenway Plan

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Complete the Priority Greenway Plan	Immediate	Parks and Recreation	

Imperative #3: A Connected Community

Initiative #3.1: Improve connections to significant ecological resources

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Inventory potential access points to significant ecological resources	Long Term	Community Development	

Imperative #4: A Positive Learning Environment

Initiative #4.1: Improve awareness for groundwater planning

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Create an Outreach Plan for groundwater planning	Long Term	Community Development	

Initiative #4.2: Improve awareness for solid waste reduction

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Create an Outreach Plan for Organics Recycling	Long Term	Community Development	

Relationship to Regional Planning

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.

<p>Ramsey Role - Natural Resource Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include goals, priorities, and natural resource conservation strategies in the local comprehensive plan to protect and enhance natural resources identified in regional and local natural resource inventories. • Conserve, protect, and interconnect open space to enhance livability, recreational opportunities and habitats. • Adopt and implement ordinances for the conservation and restoration of natural resources within the community. • Work with regional partners and regional park implementing agencies to identify, plan for, and acquire natural areas and resources prime for preservation and protection. • Plan for aggregate resource extraction where viable deposits remain accessible, as required by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act. 	<p>Metropolitan Council Role – Natural Resource Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate natural resource protection strategies into metropolitan system plans for infrastructure investments. • Collaborate with local, regional, and state partners to expand the Regional Parks System, as appropriate, to conserve, maintain, and connect natural resources identified as of high quality or of regional importance, consistent with the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. • Collaborate and convene with state, regional, and local partners to protect, maintain, and enhance natural resources protection. • Maintain an up-to-date regional Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete local natural resources inventories, prioritize areas to protect, and integrate natural resources conservation into local ordinances. • Conserve natural resources and protect vital natural areas when designing and constructing local infrastructure and planning land use patterns. • Encourage site planning that incorporates natural areas as part of site development and redevelopment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance and tools for natural resources protection, conservation, and restoration. • Promote the implementation of best management practices for habitat restoration and natural resource conservation.
<p>Ramsey Role – Water Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate best management practices for stormwater management in planning processes and implement best management practices with development and redevelopment to control and treat stormwater. • Integrate water sustainability and protection of groundwater recharge areas into local plans. Consider how development, irrigation, reductions in infiltration and inflow, and increased surface runoff impact groundwater recharge and consider conservation strategies and best management practices to mitigate these impacts. • Adopt and implement best management practices for protection of natural resources, the quality and quantity of our water resources, and the preservation of water supply. • Explore alternative water supply sources to ensure adequate water resources beyond 2040. • Collaborate and convene with state, regional, and local partners to protect, maintain, and enhance natural resources protection and the protection of the quality and quantity of the region’s water resources and water supply. • Prepare and implement local water supply plans and source water (wellhead) protection ordinances, consistent with Minnesota Rules part 4720, in all communities with municipal water supply. • Plan land use patterns that facilitate groundwater recharge and reuse, and 	<p>Metropolitan Council Role – Water Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate and convene with state, regional, and local partners to protect, maintain, and enhance natural resources protection and the protection of the quality and quantity of the region’s water resources and water supply. • Work to maintain and improve the quality and availability of the region’s water resources to support habitat and ecosystem health while providing for recreational opportunities, all of which are critical elements of our region’s quality of life. • Update regional plans for water supply and pursue environmentally sound and cooperative water reuse practices, conservation initiatives, joint planning, and implementation efforts to maximize surface water infiltration to recharge groundwater supplies. • Support economic growth and development by promoting the wise use of water through a sustainable balance of surface and groundwater use, conservation, reuse, aquifer recharge and other practices. • Provide efficient and high-quality regional wastewater infrastructure and services. • Pursue wastewater reuse where economically feasible as a means to promote sustainable water resources. • Reduce the excess flow of clear water into the regional wastewater collection system (inflow and infiltration) to protect capacity for future growth. • Require proper management of subsurface treatment systems, consistent with Minn. Rules Chapters 7080-7083, to minimize

<p>reduce per capita water use to protect the region’s water supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for sustainable water supply options and groundwater recharge areas to promote development in accordance with natural resources protection and efficient use of land. • Partner with other water supply providers to explore options to reduce dependence on groundwater. • Prepare and implement local surface water plans as required by Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410, the Metropolitan Land Planning Act, and the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan. • Reduce the excess flow of clear water into the local wastewater collection system (inflow and infiltration). Participate in inflow / infiltration grant programs as available. • Incorporate current MPCA regulations (Minn. Rules Chapters 7080-7083) as part of a program for managing subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS) in the comprehensive plan and local ordinances, and implement the standards in issuing permits. Describe the conditions under which the installation of SSTS will be permitted and the areas not suitable for public or private systems. • Adopt and enforce ordinances related to stormwater management and erosion control. • Adopt and implement best management practices for abating, preventing, and reducing point and nonpoint source pollution. • Develop and adopt critical area plans and ordinances consistent with Executive Order 79-19 and Critical Area Program rules in all communities with affected lands in the Mississippi River Critical Area Corridor. • Integrate drinking water source protection into local land use decisions, particularly in Drinking Water Supply Management Areas. • Develop programs that encourage stormwater management, treatment, and infiltration. 	<p>impacts on surface water, groundwater, and public health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure adequate and high quality groundwater and surface water supplies to protect public health and support economic growth and development by promoting the wise use of water through a sustainable balance of surface water and groundwater use, conservation, reuse, aquifer recharge, and other practices. • Review watershed management plans in coordination with the Board of Water and Soil Resources. • Review local water plans in partnership with the watershed organizations that approve the local water plans. • Support implementation of volume reduction techniques such as infiltration or filtration for stormwater management. • Promote the implementation of best management practices for stormwater management. • Collaborate with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide technical assistance to local governments in implementing the Mississippi River Critical Area Program, and coordinate with the DNR in review of those plans and ordinances.
<p>Ramsey Role – Resilience</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council Role – Resilience</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify local measures that would result in reductions in water use, energy consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions. • Identify local mitigation and adaptation strategies and infrastructure resiliency plans to protect against potential negative impacts to local economies, local resources, and infrastructure systems that result from more frequent or severe weather events. • Implement compact development patterns and create more connected places to reduce auto-dependency and related generation of greenhouse gas emissions. • Address climate change mitigation and adaptation in locally meaningful ways in the local comprehensive plan. • Identify local measures that would result in reductions in water use, energy consumption, and emission of greenhouse gases. • Ensure that local comprehensive plans and ordinances protect and enable the development of solar resources, as required by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act, and consider the use of other alternative energy sources as part of the planning process. • Consider the development or use of community solar gardens (CSGs) by public and private entities to enable fuller and more economic use of the community's solar resource, including participating as subscribers, assisting in marketing community solar garden opportunities for economic development, and providing sites for gardens to be developed. • Identify local measures to address impacts to local economies, local resources, and infrastructure systems as a result of more frequent or severe weather events. • Identify local initiatives as cost-saving measures that may, as a result, lower energy consumption, reduce the generation of greenhouse gas emissions, preserve water supply, reduce municipal waste, or increase participation in recycling programs. • Participate in programs that evaluate and share city practices and provide technical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially reduce energy consumption at Council facilities, improve the efficiency of the Council's vehicle fleets including Metro Transit buses, and provide information to the public and partners to lead by example. • With regional infrastructure, planning, and operations, increase efforts to reduce water use and energy consumption. • Identify and address potential vulnerabilities in regional systems as a result of increased frequency and severity of storms and heat waves. Maintain dikes, emergency generators, and response plans for Council facilities facing extreme weather. • Use the Council's investments and planning authorities to contribute toward meeting statutory goals for reductions in the generation of regional greenhouse gas emissions. • Convene regional discussions about goals for climate change mitigation and adaptation. • Encourage the preparation of adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency responses to climate change as part of the comprehensive plan update. • Develop, collect, and disseminate information about climate change, including energy and climate data, GreenStep Cities best practices, and the next generation of the Regional Indicators data. • Work with the State of Minnesota on a greenhouse gas emissions inventory that informs regional discussion on emissions reduction. • Provide technical assistance and toolkit resources to communities in integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies as part of local comprehensive plans. • Develop and strengthen partnerships with experts in climate change to better assist and inform local communities on how best to evaluate and develop local climate changes strategies. • Encourage communities to participate in regional programs which support efforts to
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<p>support, such as the GreenStep Cities program and the Regional Indicators Initiative.</p>	<p>inform, plan for, mitigate, adapt, and respond to climate change issues of local significance such as water conservation, stormwater infrastructure adaptation, greenhouse gas reduction, use of alternative energy sources, infrastructure planning, and hazard mitigation planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical references and resources for communities seeking to mitigate and adapt to climate change in their own facilities and in their communities. Examples of these resources include stormwater, wastewater, and water supply management practices, and transit and land use planning. • Provide, or collaborate with partners to provide, technical references, and resources for communities seeking to mitigate and adapt to climate change, in their own facilities and in their communities, including, but not limited to, stormwater, wastewater, and water supply management practices,
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DRAFT

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

5. 2.

Meeting Date: 03/19/2018

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Information

Title:

Review Draft Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area Chapter of Comprehensive Plan

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to review a draft of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. As with all chapters, this will be an iterative process and will not be the last time the EPB will review this chapter. Staff will continue to refine this chapter but wanted to provide the Board an opportunity to review and comment on it prior to the April 9 public Open House.

Observations/Alternatives:

Please see the attached draft chapter.

Action:

Provide input and recommendations on the draft chapter.

Attachments

DRAFT MRRCA Chapter

Form Review

Inbox

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 03/15/2018

Reviewed By

Tim Gladhill

Date

03/15/2018 04:27 PM

Started On: 03/15/2018 12:09 PM

Introduction

Designated by Governor's Executive Order in the 1970s, the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) is a land corridor along the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area governed by special land planning requirements and land development regulations. These regulations, which are implemented through local MRCCA plans and ordinances, protect and preserve the natural, scenic, recreational, and transportation resources of this section of the Mississippi River. The MRCCA comprises 72 miles of river and 54,000 acres of surrounding land in 30 local jurisdictions.

Ramsey adopted its first Critical Area Plan in 1980. Ramsey adopted its first Critical Area Ordinance in 1985, and has processed several amendments since that date.

Ramsey has ensured that plan preparation has included extensive public engagement. In 2013, Ramsey hosted a series of public workshops on the topic, and maintains a contact database. In addition, Ramsey's overall Comprehensive Plan Update has included the most extensive public engagement process Ramsey has hosted for any of its Comprehensive Plan Updates.

Comprehensive Plan Strategic Imperatives

- A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth
- An Active Community (Parks, Recreation, and Open Space)
- A Connected Community (Transportation)
- A Positive Learning Environment

Initiatives for the Critical Area

A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth

- Protect and Restore Significant Ecological Resources
- Improve Water Quality

An Active Community

- Maintain and Improve Recreation Opportunities along and adjacent to the Mississippi River

A Connected Community

- Improve Access to the Mississippi River

A Positive Learning Environment

- Communicate the Benefits of Protection of Ecological Resources

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Districts

River Neighborhood

The river neighborhood district is characterized by primarily residential neighborhoods that are riparian or readily visible from the river or that abut riparian parkland. The district includes parks and open space, limited commercial development, marinas, and related land uses.

The river neighborhood district must be managed to maintain the character of the river corridor within the context of existing residential and related neighborhood development, and to protect and enhance habitat, parks and open space, public river corridor views, and scenic, natural, and historic areas.

Minimizing erosion and the flow of untreated storm water into the river and enhancing habitat and shoreline habitat vegetation are priorities in the district.

Rural Open Space

The rural and open space district is characterized by rural and low-density development patterns and land uses, and includes land that is riparian or visible from the river, as well as large, undeveloped tracts of high ecological and scenic value, floodplain, and undeveloped islands. Many primary conservation areas exist in the district.

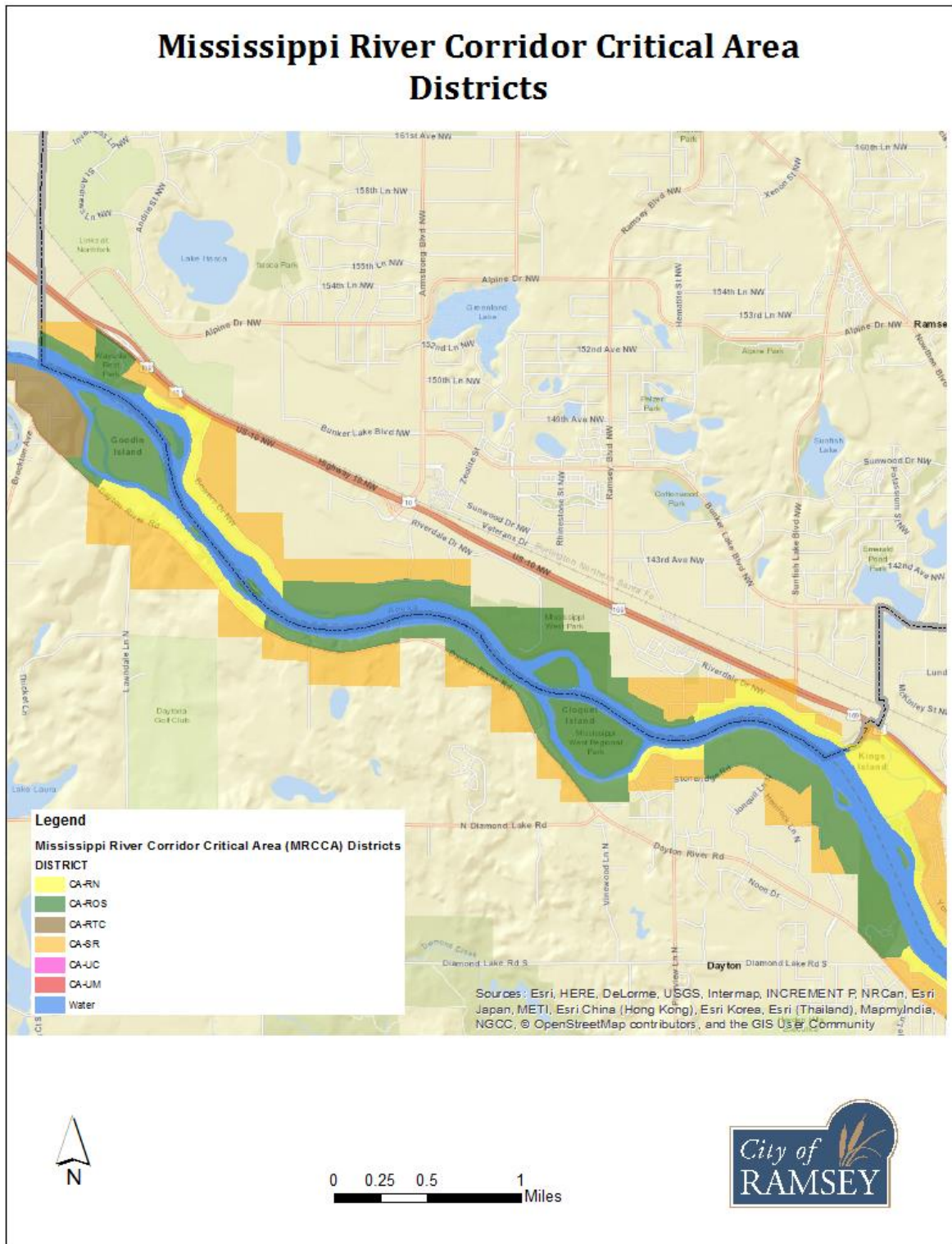
The rural open space district must be managed to sustain and restore the rural and natural character of the corridor and to protect and enhance habitat, parks and open space, public river corridor views, and scenic, natural, and historic areas.

Separated From River

The separated from river district is characterized by its physical and visual distance from the Mississippi River. The district includes land separated from the river by distance, topography, development, or a transportation corridor. The land in this district is not readily visible from the Mississippi River.

The CA-SR district provides flexibility in managing development without negatively affecting the key resources and features of the river corridor. Minimizing negative impacts to primary conservation areas and minimizing erosion and flow of untreated storm water into the Mississippi River are priorities in the district.

Figure 1: Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Districts



Primary Conservation Areas

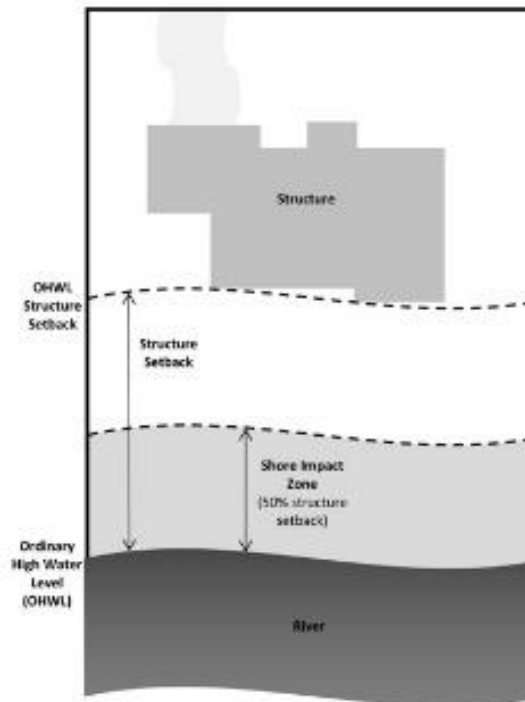
"Primary conservation areas" means key resources and features, including shore impact zones, bluff impact zones, floodplains, wetlands, gorges, areas of confluence with tributaries, natural drainage routes, unstable soils and bedrock, native plant communities, cultural and historic properties, significant existing vegetative stands, tree canopies, and other resources identified in local government plans.

General Overview and Description

Generalized maps of the Primary Conservation Areas below are included in the text below. Larger, more detailed maps are included as an appendix. Detailed maps will be available upon request.

Shore Impact Zones

"Shore impact zone" means land located between the ordinary high water level of public waters and a line parallel to it at a setback of 50 percent of the required structure setback or, for areas in agricultural use, 50 feet landward of the ordinary high water level.



Floodplains and Wetlands

"Floodplain" means the areas adjoining a watercourse which has been or hereafter may be covered by the regional flood.

Confluence with Key Tributaries

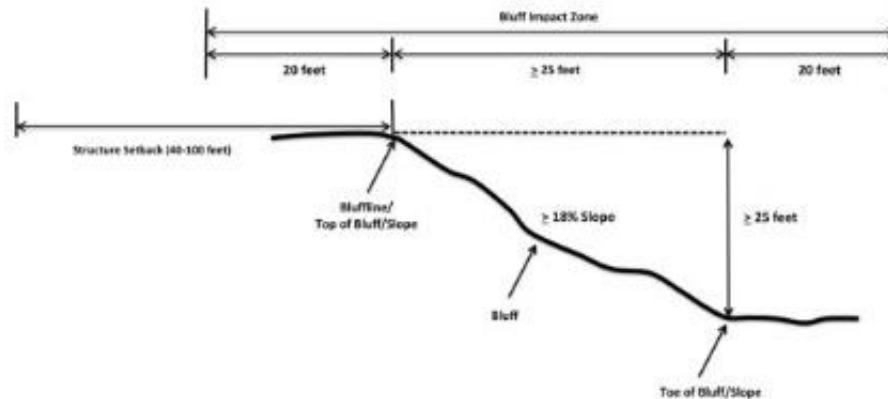
There are no confluences with key tributaries within Ramsey.

Natural Drainage Areas

The Critical Area Plan includes mapping of natural drainage areas that impact the Mississippi River.

Bluff Impact Zone

"Bluff impact zone" means the bluff and land within 20 feet of the bluff.



Native Plant Communities and Significant Existing Vegetative Stands

"Native plant community" means a plant community that has been identified as part of the Minnesota biological survey or biological survey issued or adopted by a local, state, or federal agency.

Cultural & Historic Properties

"Historic property" means an archaeological site, standing structure, site, district, or other property that is:

- A. listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the State Register of Historic Places or locally designated as a historic site under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 471;
- B. determined to meet the criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places or the State Register of Historic Places; or
- C. an unplatted cemetery that falls under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 307, in consultation with the Office of the State Archeologist.

One area of cultural and historic significance is located in the corridor. It does not meet the definition above. The location of the first settlement in Ramsey is located within the corridor, originally known as Itasca Village. There are no remaining structures or assets from this original settlement.

Gorges

There are no gorges located in Ramsey.

Unstable Soils and Bedrock

There is significant areas of shoreline erosion located along Ramsey's Mississippi River Shoreline. This erosion is documented through a 2016 Anoka Conservation District Survey. The results of said survey are incorporated into this document by reference. Ramsey will be utilizing this information for education, outreach, and funding purposes to restore priority areas from further erosion.

Figure 2: Shore Impact Zone Map



Figure 3: Floodplains and Wetlands

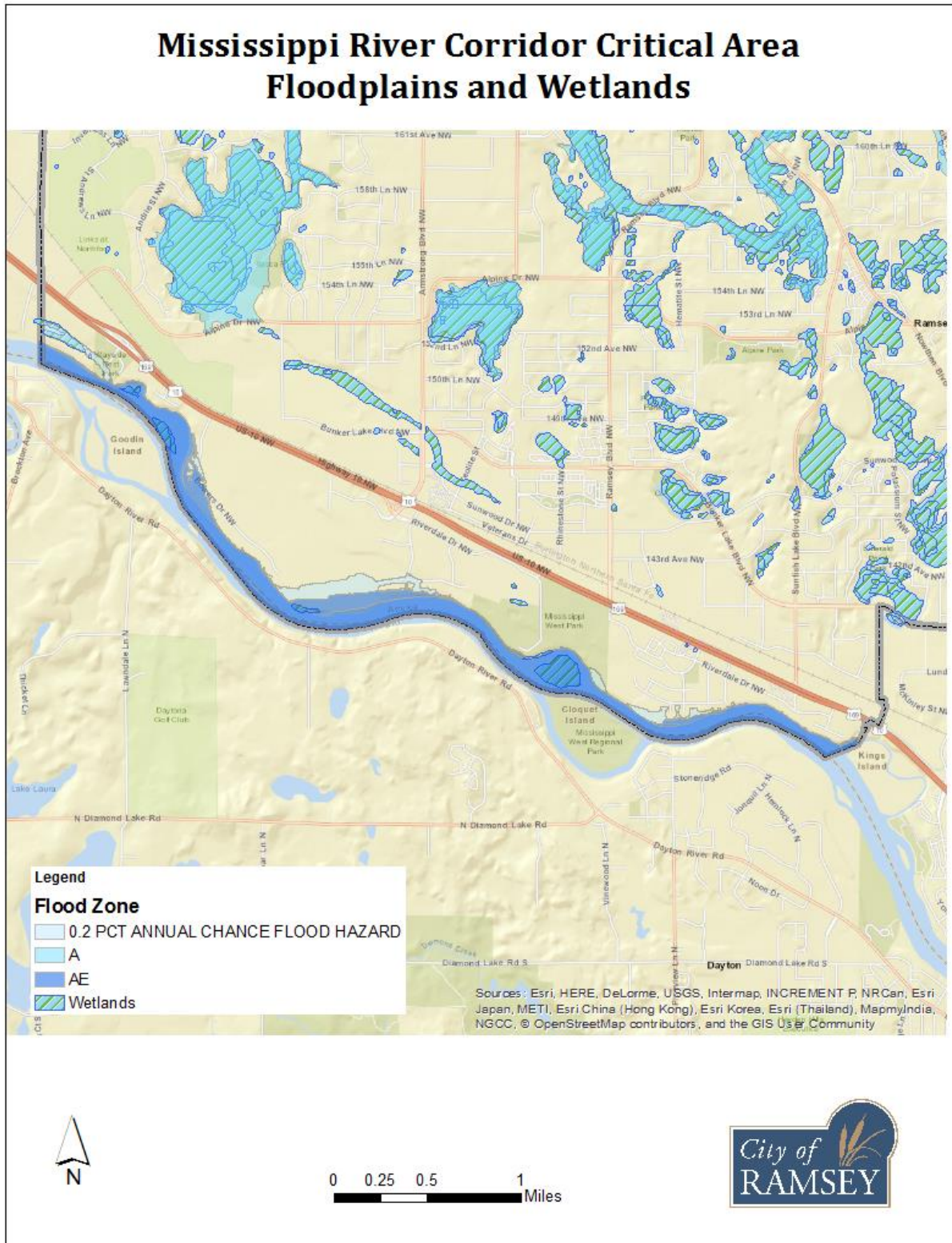


Figure 4: Confluence with Key Tributaries

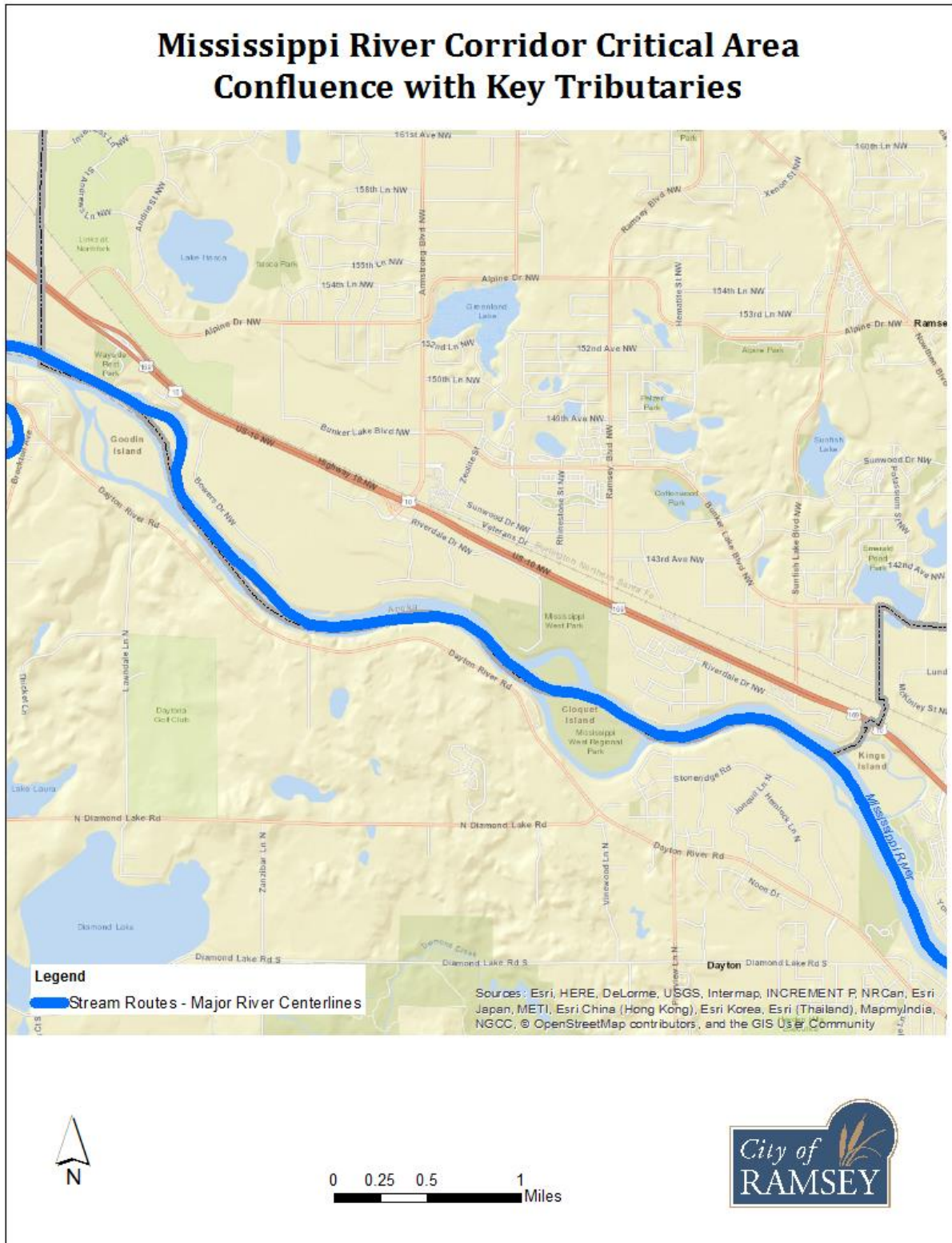
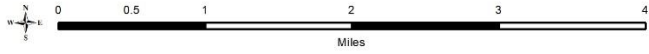
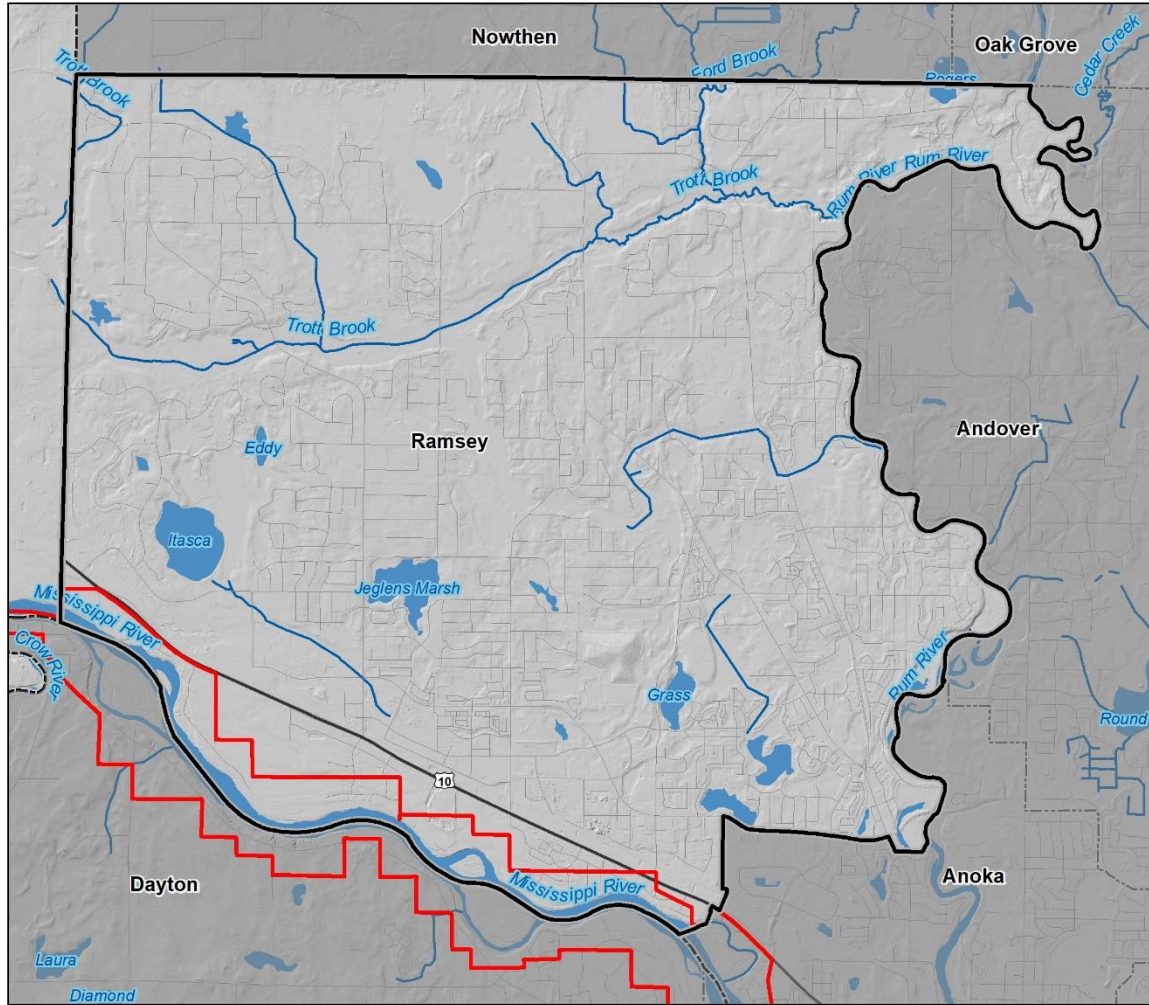


Figure 5: Natural Drainage Areas

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area - Major Natural Drainage Routes City of Ramsey, Anoka County



- MRCCA Boundary
- Background Layer: MnGEO Hillshade (LIDAR)
- ~ Streams (All Types - Perennial & Intermittent)
- Lakes and Major Rivers
- County Boundaries
- City and Township Boundaries
- NCompass Street Centerlines

Figure 6: Bluffs and Bluff Impact Zones

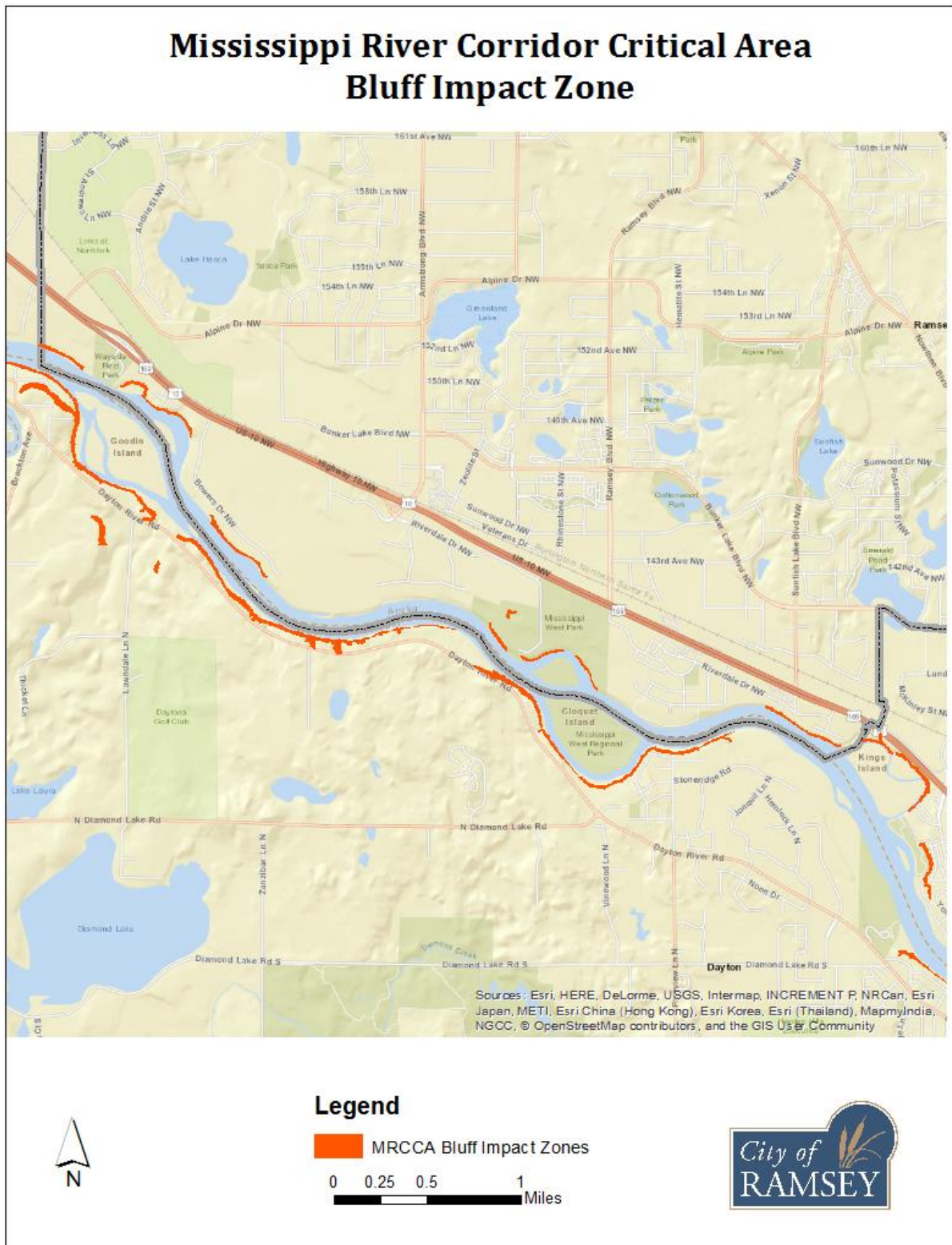
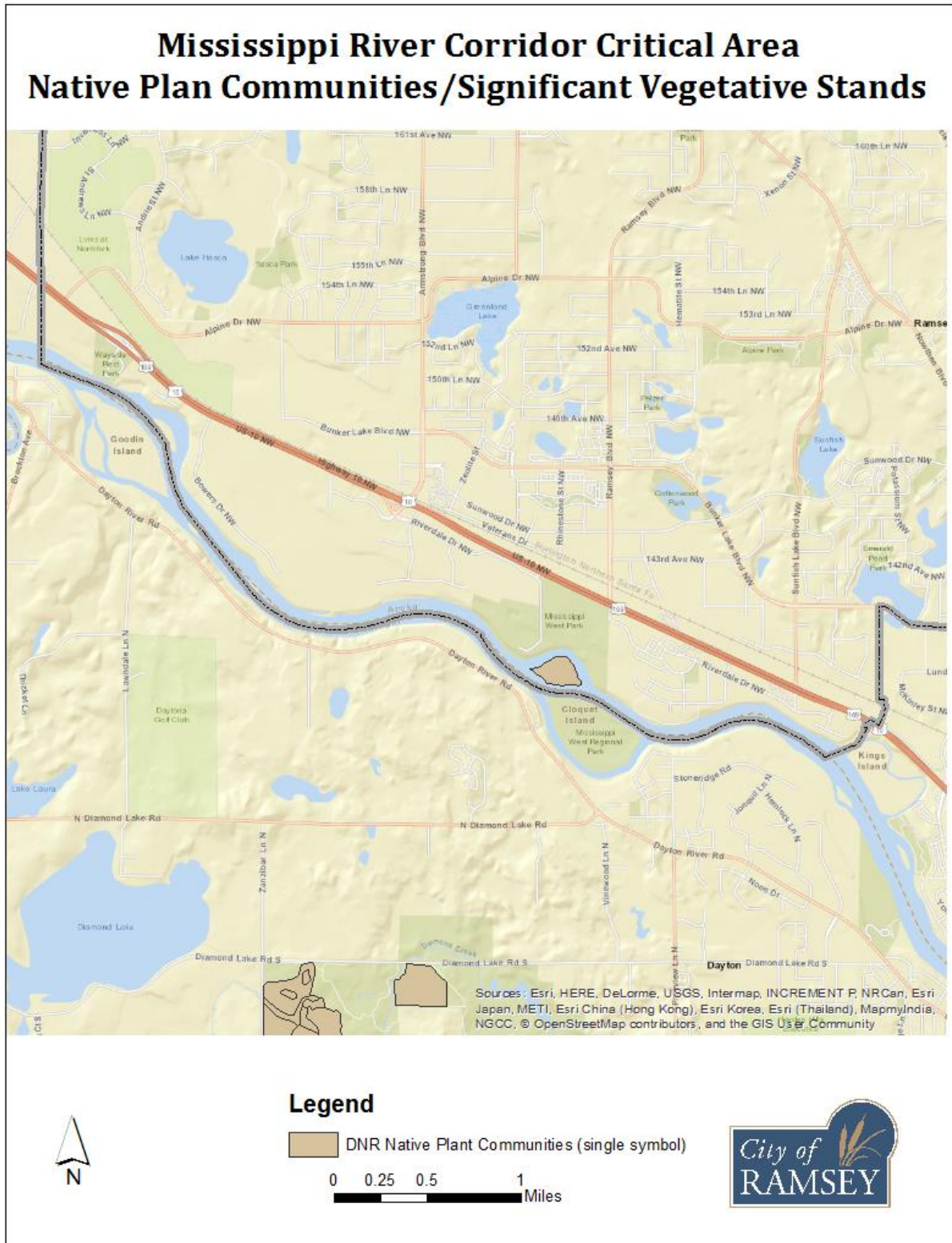


Figure 7: Native Plan Communities & Significant Existing Vegetative Stands



Public River Corridor Views

General Overview

A key component of the Critical Area Plan is to improve access to public river views and protect the views of bluffs from the river.

Views Toward River from Public Places



Views Toward Bluffs from River

Examples of Views from River

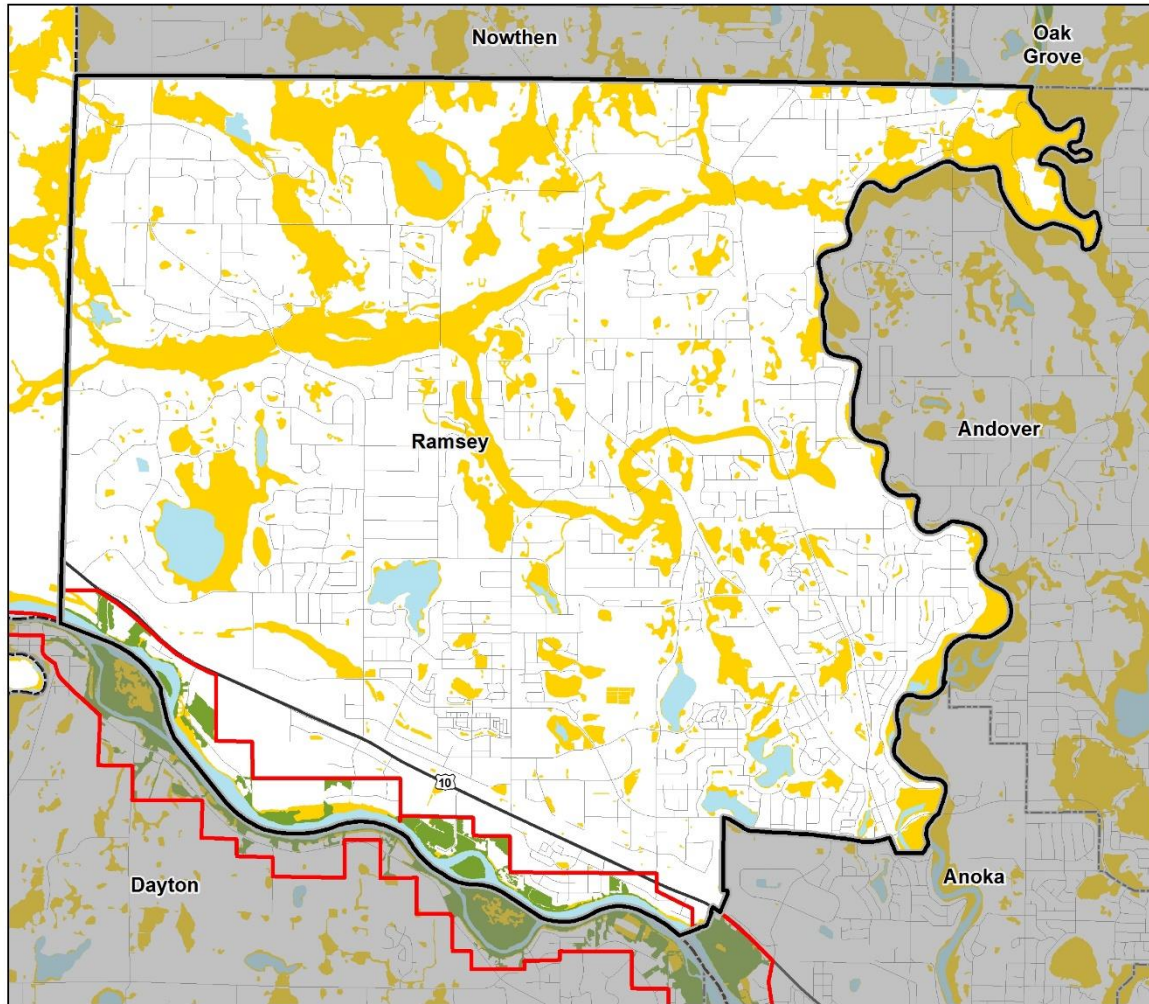


Priorities for Restoration

Ramsey's priority for restoration within the Corridor is protecting the Corridor from significant erosion as identified by the 2017 Anoka Conservation District Mississippi River Shoreline Inventory for Ramsey.

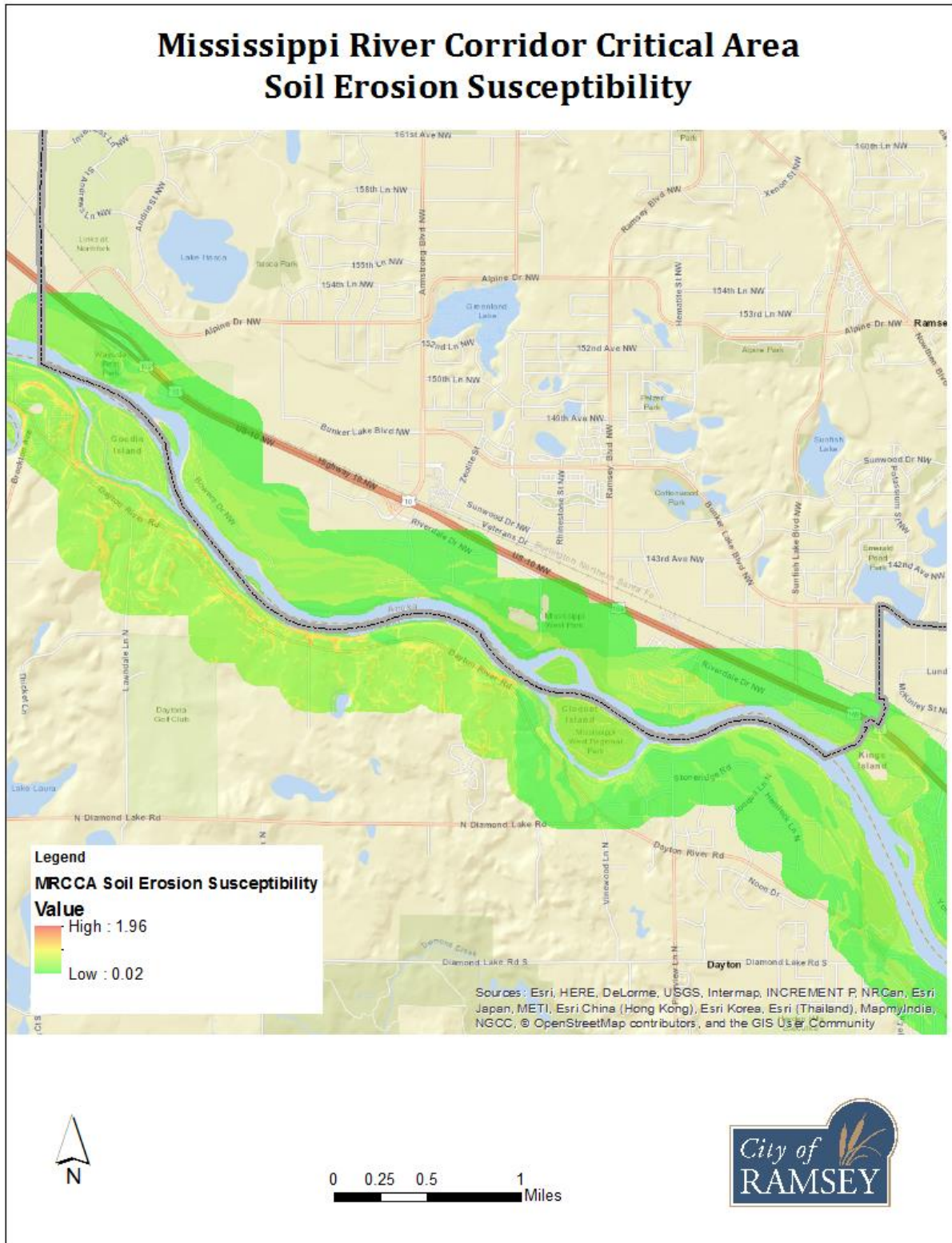
Figure 8: Vegetation Restoration Priorities

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area - Vegetation Restoration Priorities City of Ramsey, Anoka County



-  MRCCA Boundary
-  DNR Native Plant Communities & Significant Existing Vegetative Stands
-  Vegetation Restoration Priorities (Bluff and shore impact zones, floodplains and wetlands not already covered by native plant communities and significant existing vegetative stands)
-  County Boundaries
-  City and Township Boundaries
-  NCompass Street Centerlines

Figure 9: Soil Erosion Susceptibility



Policies

General

Districts/Land Use

Ramsey will implement the policies of the Critical Area by adopting the new districts within our Zoning Code.

Primary Conservation Areas

Ramsey will encourage conservation subdivision design to protect Primary Conservation Areas. Conservation Subdivision Design will allow the clustering of lots in exchange for permanent protection of Primary Conservation Areas. Ramsey will also continue its proactive approach to subdivision design by encouraging setbacks and adequate lot depth to preserve Primary Conservation Areas.

Public River Corridor Views

Ramsey will strive to work with applicable partners, especially Anoka County Parks, to improve access to Public River Corridor Views.

Restoration Priorities

Ramsey will continue to implement pilot demonstration projects and incentives to encourage restoration of priority areas.

Surface Water Uses

Ramsey will continue to support Anoka County's operation of a Boat Launch along Traprock Street.

Water-Oriented Use

There are no private Water-Oriented Uses planned along the shoreline of the Mississippi River. However, the Mississippi West Regional Park will be a primary access to encourage interaction with the Mississippi River. There is also a future local park planned west of Mississippi West Regional park.

Open Space & Recreation Facilities

Ramsey will continue to support planning and implementation for Mississippi West. Ramsey will continue to own and maintain Riverdale Park. Ramsey will continue to plan for a new municipal park along the Mississippi River between the Alpaca Estates and Bowers neighborhoods.

Transportation & Public Utilities

Ramsey will continue to support future planning for the future Mississippi River Crossing to the City of Dayton in Hennepin County.

Ramsey will continue to support Connexus Energy's electric transmission line across the Mississippi River to the City of Dayton.

City Code Amendments

In order to properly administer this amended plan, the City will need to make certain amendments to City Code. These amendments include, but are not necessarily limited to the following.

- Establish General Land use Review Procedures.
- Develop administrative procedures for shoreline stabilization.

- Actively communicate with other communities to protect views they have identified in your community that are valuable, and vice versa.
- Establish a vegetation permitting process that includes permit review procedures to ensure consideration of restoration priorities identified in this plan in permit issuance, as well as standard conditions requiring vegetation restoration for those priority areas.
- Establish process for evaluating priorities for natural vegetation restoration, erosion prevention and bank and slope stabilization, or other restoration priorities identified in this plan in CUP, variances and subdivision/PUD processes.
- Develop visual analysis approach for CUPs for additional height in the RTC and UM districts (if applicable), as well as for proposed PUDs and variances.
- Develop a system for reviewing, tracking, and monitoring open space required as part of the subdivision process.

Critical Area Implementation Plan

Imperative #1: A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth

Initiative #1.1: Protect and Restore Significant Ecological Resources

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Update Zoning Code to reflect Amended Plan	Immediate Term	Community Development	Normal Staff Duties
Establish a plan to reduce erosion, protect canopy coverage, protect significant vegetative areas, and encourage pollinator-friendly landscapes.	Immediate Term	Community Development	Normal Staff Duties

Initiative #1.2: Improve Water Quality

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Establish a plan to reduce the amount of sediment and phosphorus entering the river.	Long Term	Community Development	Normal Staff Duties

Imperative #2: An Active Community

Initiative #2.1: Maintain and Improve Recreation Opportunities along and adjacent to the Mississippi River

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Prioritize areas for acquisition to increase opportunities to access the river.	Long Term	Parks and Recreation	Normal Staff Duties
Coordinate jurisdictional planning efforts.	Long Term	Parks and Recreation	

Imperative #3: A Connected Community

Initiative #3.1: Improve Access to the Mississippi River

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Prioritize facilities and projects that improve access to the river.	Immediate Term	Parks and Recreation	Normal Staff Duties
Complete the Central Anoka County Regional Trail Connection	Long Term	Parks and Recreation	
Update the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to reflect the amended Plan.	Immediate Term	Parks and Recreation	
Update Surface Water Use Regulations.		Community Development	
Provide Guidance to Private Property Owners for Private Accesses.		Community Development	

Imperative #4: A Positive Learning Environment

Initiative #4.1: Communicate the Benefits of Protection of Ecological Resources

Tactic	Priority	Responsible Party	Resources
Create Informational Packets	Immediate Term	Community Development	Normal Staff Duties
Develop a Communications Plan			
Create a new Critical Area Webpage			
Create a Signage Package for Public Spaces			

This is the old format.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME
Ordinance/City Code Updates	
Amend MRCCA Overlay District (City Code)	2019
Amend Zoning Map	2019
Ordinance/City Code Administration	
Establish General Land Use Review Procedures	2019
Develop Administrative Procedures for Shoreline Stabilization	2019
Actively communicate with other communities to protect views they have identified in your community that are valuable, and vice versa.	2019
Establish a vegetation permitting process that includes permit review procedures to ensure consideration of restoration priorities identified in this plan in permit issuance, as well as standard conditions requiring vegetation restoration for those priority areas.	2020
Establish process for evaluating priorities for natural vegetation restoration, erosion prevention and bank and slope stabilization, or other restoration priorities identified in this plan in CUP, variances and subdivision/PUD processes.	2020
Develop visual analysis approach for CUPs for additional height in the RTC and UM districts (if applicable), as well as for proposed PUDs and variances.	2020
Develop a system for reviewing, tracking, and monitoring open space required as part of the subdivision process.	2020
Education and Outreach	
Create Informational Packet	2019
Develop a Communications Plan	2019
Create New MRCCA Webpage	2019
Create Signage Package for Public Places	2020
Capital Improvements	
Update Capital Improvement Program to Reflect MRCCA Plan Update	2019
Include Transportation Corridors Within MRCCA in CIP	2019
Land Acquisition	
Create Land Acquisition Plan for Select Parcels	2020
Additional Initiatives	
Adopt Surface Water Regulations	2019
Conduct Additional Research	??
Coordinate Jurisdictional Planning Efforts	??
Conduct Master Planning Efforts	??
Conduct Corridor Planning Efforts	??

Meeting Date: 03/19/2018

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Information

Title:

Review Landscape and Tree Preservation Plans for Basalt Industrial (Project No. 18-105)

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to review the Landscape and Tree Preservation Plans associated with a Site Plan for a new industrial building project. The project is located at the northeast corner of Basalt Street and 14th Ave NW (the "Subject Property"). The Subject Property is currently owned by the City and there is an active purchase agreement in place with Sharp and Associates, who is the developer.

Observations/Alternatives:

The Site Plan includes a 9,700 square foot building with the potential of five (5) units, each having its own bay. There are two (2) proposed entrances, both off of Basalt Street and twenty-eight (28) parking spaces. There is some existing tree cover on the Subject Property, primarily along the eastern property boundary. The existing trees consist predominantly of Bur Oak and Siberian Elm.

The Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) classifies this site as 'urban with little vegetative cover'. It does not contain any natural areas per the City's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), nor are there any wetlands or floodplains on the Subject Property.

The proposed landscaping generally meets the requirements of the E-1 Employment District, with the exception of parking lot landscaping (deficient three [3] trees). However, based on the amount of tree removals proposed, additional reforestation is required. Based on the proposed plans, only about sixteen percent of the significant tree DBH inches are being retained (after excluding invasive species and trees removed due to ponding requirements). When factoring in the proposed landscaping, the project is still deficient roughly forty-two (42) inches of reforestation. The Staff Review Letter outlines this in greater detail.

Regarding Tree Preservation, there are oaks being preserved on the Subject Property as well as on adjacent parcels. Thus, an Oak Wilt Management Plan will be required to outline what precautionary steps will be taken to prevent the introduction of Oak Wilt into the area. Furthermore, the Staff Review Letter outlines necessary corrections regarding the location of Tree Save Fencing to ensure protection of the critical root zone (generally speaking, within the dripline of trees).

Overall, Staff is generally supportive of the project, contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

Funding Source:

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

Action:

Motion to recommend approval of the Landscape and Tree Preservation Plans contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

Site Location Map

Landscape and Tree Preservation Plan

Site Plan

Staff Review Letter

Form Review

Inbox

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 03/16/2018

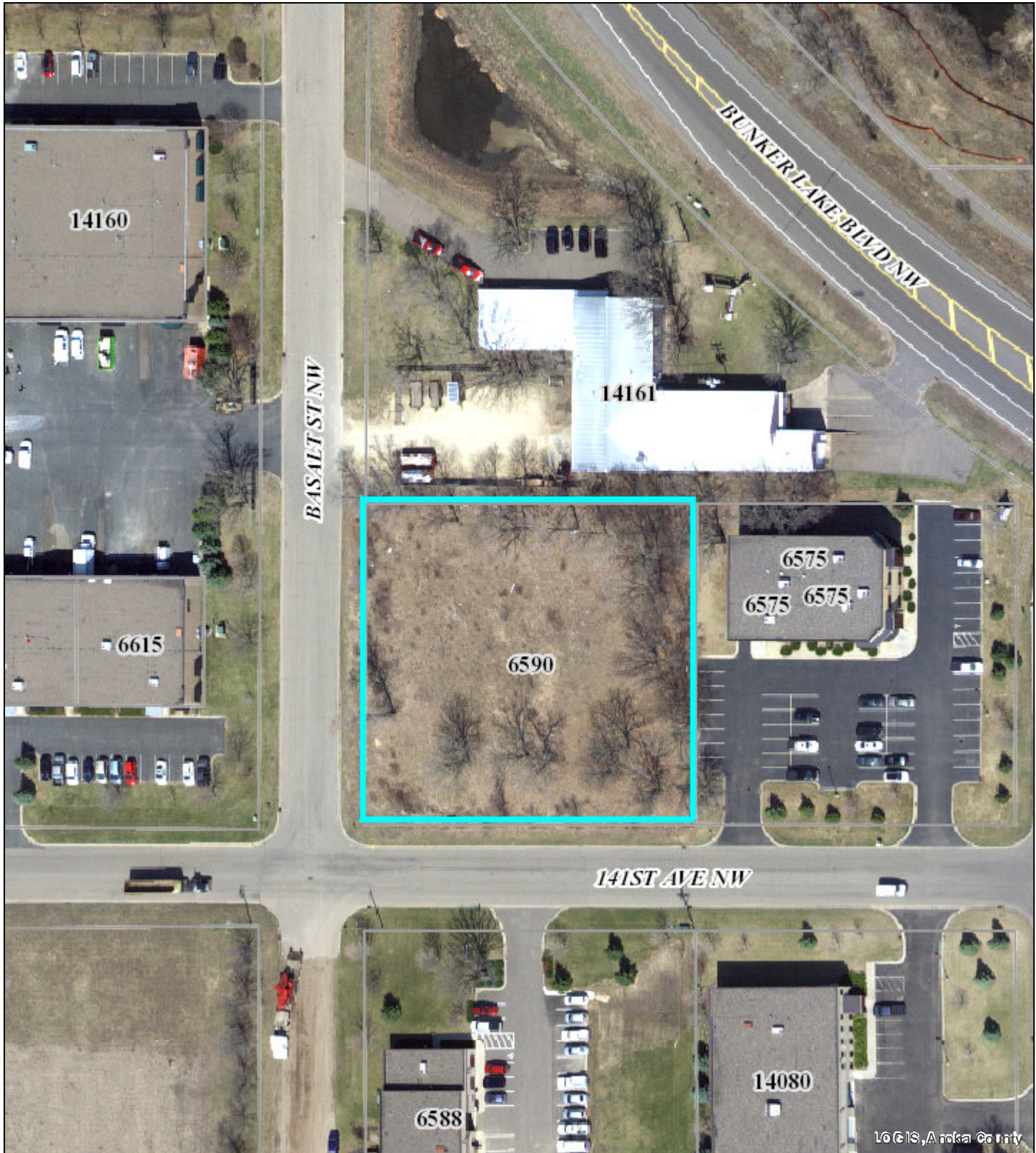
Reviewed By

JoAnn Shaw

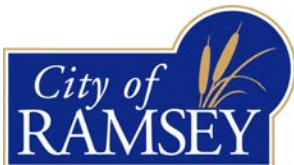
Date

03/16/2018 08:06 AM

Started On: 03/15/2018 04:33 PM



LOGIS, A raska Co nity





Sharp and Associates

6590 141st Ave NW

6590 141ST AVE NW

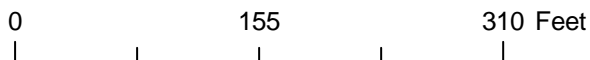
27-32-25-44-0003

Legend

-  Site
-  Parcels



Print Date: February 7, 2018



QTY.	KEY	COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	SIZE	MTHD	REMARKS
6	AB	AUTUMN BLAZE MAPLE	ACER SACCHARUM	2.5" CAL.	BB	
5	HL	IMPERIAL HONEYLOCUST	GLEDITSIA TRICANTHOS	2.5" CAL.	BB	
3	BH	BLACK HILLS SPRING SNOW CRAB	PICEA GLAUCA DENSAATA	6' TALL	BB	
2	SS	SPRING SNOW CRAB	MALUS SPRING SNOW	1.5" CAL.	BB	
2	KL	DWARF KOREAN LILAC	SYRINGA VILLOSA	1" CAL.	BB	
6	FI	FALSE INDIGO	AMORPHA FRUITICOSA	2.4" TALL	CONT.	
20	GS	GLOBE GOLDMOUND SPIREA	SPIREA X BURKALDA 'GOLDMOUND'	2.4" TALL	CONT.	
4	GA	GLOBE ARBOREVIATAE	THUJA OCCIDENTALIS	2.4" TALL	CONT.	

- LANDSCAPE NOTES:**
1. SEED/SOD AREAS AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN.
 2. SEE PLAN FOR PLANTINGS LOCATED IN ROCK MULCH BED. ROCK MULCH BEDS SEPARATED FROM SOD BY BLACK VINYL EDGER. OTHER PLANTINGS TO HAVE WOOD MULCH RING TO PREVENT WEED GROWTH AND CONSERVE WATER.
 3. UNDERGROUND IRRIGATION SYSTEM TO BE PROVIDED FOR ALL FOUNDATION PLANTINGS AND TURF AREAS. PROVIDE MOISTURE SENSOR IRRIGATION DESIGN BY CONTRACTOR.
 4. SEE PLAN FOR EXISTING TREES TO BE SAVED OR REMOVED.

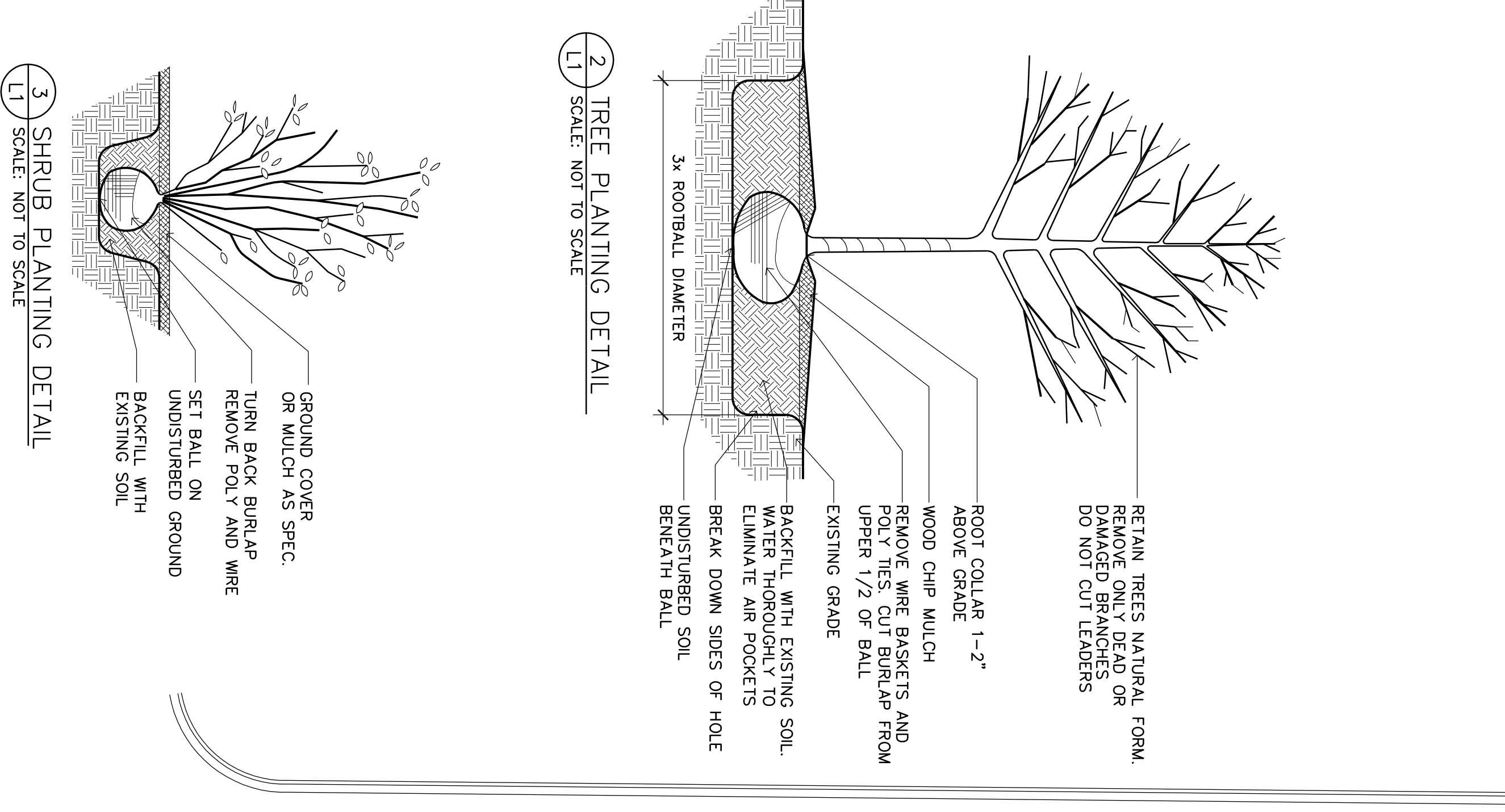
LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS

TREES:
81'4" Lot Perimeter @ 1/50 = 16 Trees Required
16 Trees Provided

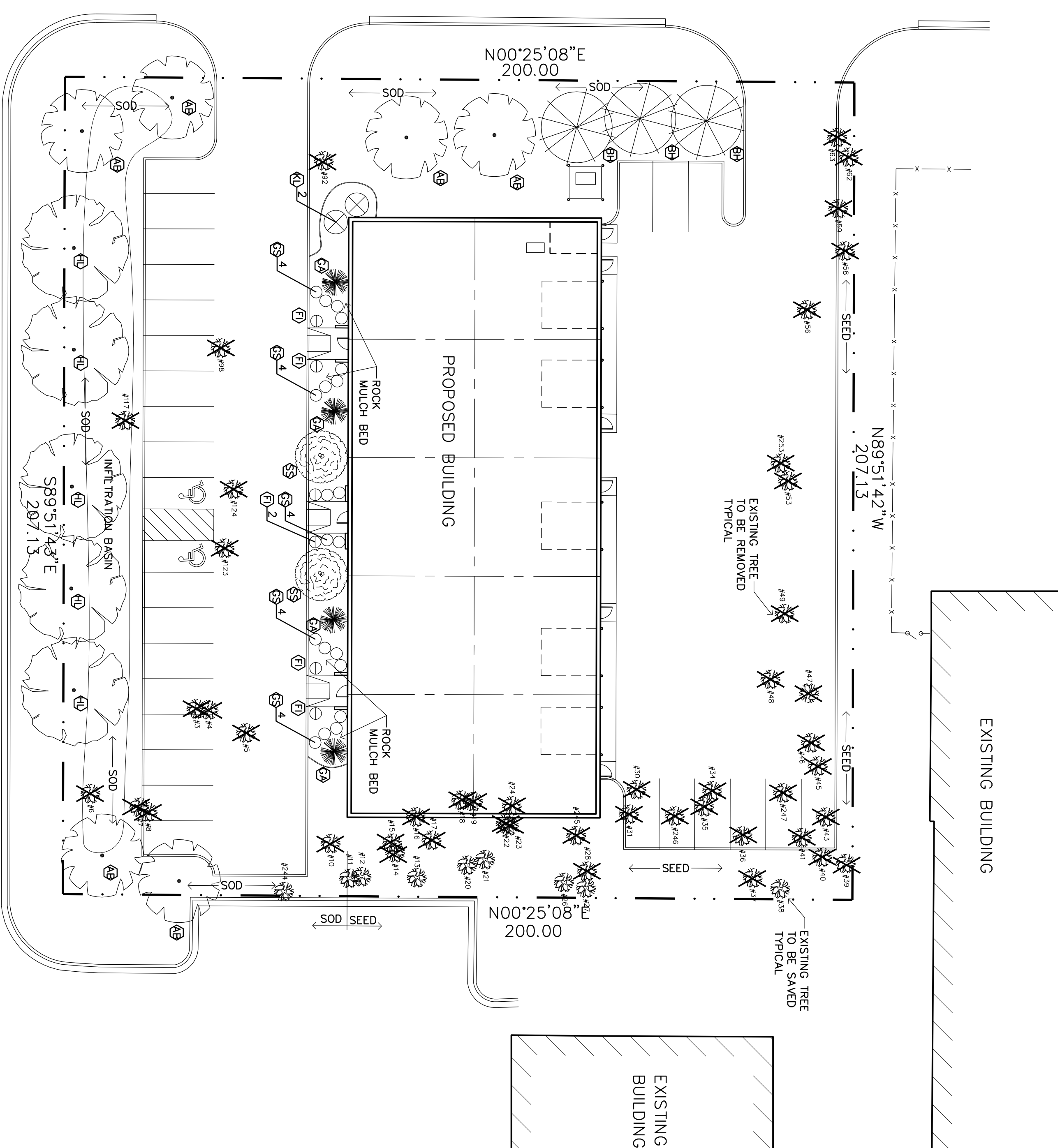
SHRUBS:
9,728 Building s.f. @ 1/300 = 32 Shrubs Required
32 Shrubs Provided

TREE INVENTORY	TAG	SPECIES NAME	CALIPER	SAVED	REMOVED
3	NORTHERN RED OAK	13	-	13	-
4	NORTHERN RED OAK	8	-	8	-
5	BUR OAK	19	-	19	-
6	BUR OAK	5	-	5	-
7	BUR OAK	6	-	6	-
8	BUR OAK	16	-	16	-
10	SIBERIAN ELM	5	-	5	-
11	NORTHERN RED OAK	20	-	20	-
12	BUR OAK	5	-	5	-
13	BUR OAK	6	-	6	-
14	BUR OAK	6	-	6	-
15	BUR OAK	4	-	4	-
16	BUR OAK	9	-	9	-
17	BUR OAK	5	-	5	-
18	SIBERIAN OAK	12	-	12	-
19	BUR OAK	6	-	6	-
20	BUR OAK	10	-	10	-
21	BUR OAK	5	-	5	-
22	BUR OAK	5	-	5	-
23	BUR OAK	7	-	7	-
24	BUR OAK	6	-	6	-
26	BUR OAK	5	-	5	-
27	BUR OAK	7	-	7	-
28	BUR OAK	6	-	6	-
30	BUR OAK	18	-	18	-
31	NORTHERN RED OAK	18	-	18	-
34	COTTONWOOD	19	-	19	-
35	COTTONWOOD	17	-	17	-
36	NORTHERN RED OAK	7	-	7	-
37	NORTHERN RED OAK	8	-	8	-
38	NORTHERN RED OAK	6	-	6	-
39	NORTHERN RED OAK	15	-	15	-
40	NORTHERN RED OAK	14	-	14	-
41	NORTHERN RED OAK	5	-	5	-
43	NORTHERN RED OAK	7	-	7	-
45	SIBERIAN ELM	13	-	13	-
46	SIBERIAN ELM	5	-	5	-
47	BIGTOOTH ASPEN	8	-	8	-
48	COTTONWOOD	19	-	19	-
49	COTTONWOOD	22	-	22	-
53	BUR OAK	26	-	26	-
56	SIBERIAN ELM	11	-	11	-
58	SIBERIAN ELM	4	-	4	-
59	SIBERIAN ELM	4	-	4	-
62	SIBERIAN ELM	3	-	3	-
63	SIBERIAN ELM	4	-	4	-
92	COTTONWOOD	24	-	24	-
98	BUR OAK	24	-	24	-
117	BUR OAK	6	-	6	-
123	BUR OAK	17	-	17	-
124	BUR OAK	17	-	17	-
244	BUR OAK	19	-	19	-
245	BUR OAK	7	-	7	-
246	SIBERIAN ELM	6	-	6	-
247	NORTHERN RED OAK	14	-	14	-
253	BLACK CHERRY	14	-	14	-
TOTAL CALIPER			597		
TOTAL CALIPER SAVED				85	
TOTAL CALIPER REMOVED					512
PERCENTAGE CALIPER SAVED/REMOVED				20.43%	79.56%

TREE REPLACEMENT
Minimum Caliper To Be Saved = 30%
Actual Caliper To Be Saved = 14.24%
15.76% OF 597" CALIPER = 94.1"
94.1" X 1.25 = 118" TO BE REPLACED
Verify Replacement Method With City Of Ramsey.



BASALT STREET N.W.



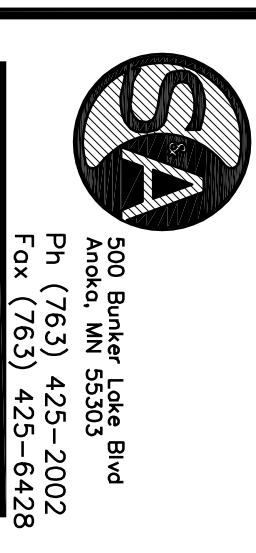
141st AVENUE N.W.

1 LANDSCAPE PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"



**PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION**

Shorp & Associates, LLC



500 Bunker Lane Blvd
Arden, WI 53503
Ph (763) 425-2002
Fax (763) 425-6428

BASALT INDUSTRIAL

Ramsy, Minnesota

Drawn By:	JRB
Checked By:	LL
Revisions:	
2/22/18	PRELIMINARY

LANDSCAPE PLAN

Sheet Number

L1

Project No. 180212-1

CITY OF RAMSEY LAND USE APPLICATION
TECHNICAL REVIEW FILE

DATE	MARCH 15, 2018	PROJECT ADDRESS	6590 141 ST AVE NW
PROJECT. TITLE	BASALT INDUSTRIAL		
ESCROW #	116216		
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development: Planning Division (Landscape Plan & Environmental Resources)		
TECHNICAL REVIEWER:	Name: Chris Anderson, City Planner Phone: 763-433-9817 Email: canderson@cityoframsey.com		

We offer the following comments regarding the Civil Engineering and Landscape Plans, prepared by Hakanson Anderson dated February 28, 2018:

Sheet C6

- An Oak Wilt Management Plan is required due to the presence of oak trees both on this property and on adjacent parcels as well. This plan is subject to review and approval by the City and must outline what precautionary steps will be taken to avoid introduction of oak wilt to oak trees being preserved onsite or on adjacent parcels.
- Tree Save Fencing will be required rather than silt fence along the eastern boundary where tree preservation will occur to avoid impacting roots to trees being saved.
- Tree Save Fencing shall be placed no closer than the dripline of protected trees and shall remain in place and in tact throughout all construction activity. This note must be added to the plan set.

Sheet C8

- The use of seed rather than sod requires approval of City Council. Staff does not object to turf establishment via seed as proposed (this is applicable to all other Plan Sheets as well).

Sheet L1:

- Tree #18 is listed as a Siberian Oak, which doesn't exist. Please correct (presumably the tree is either a Siberian Elm or a Bur Oak).
- Add Landscape Note specifying that all areas, including boulevards, not otherwise improved with impervious surfaces shall receive four (4) inches of topsoil meeting the City's topsoil specification. Copies of the load tickets shall be provided to the City and a topsoil inspection shall be completed prior to installation of any landscaping.
- At least three (3) additional trees are required based on the proposed number of parking stalls.
- At least 30% of the DBH inches of existing, significant trees are required to be retained onsite or replanted. Based on the proposed removals and landscaping, an additional forty-three (43) inches of reforestation is required (after excluding invasive species and trees removed for ponding, and including all proposed plantings of trees). The Landscape Plan will need to be amended to meet this standard.

Review File: Basalt Industrial
Landscaping and Tree Preservation Review
March 15, 2018
Page 2 of 2

- Tree Save Fencing must be shown on this sheet also.
- Tree Save Fencing shall be placed no closer than the dripline of protected trees and shall remain in place and in tact throughout all construction activity. This note must be added to the plan set.