

**City of Ramsey**  
**Agenda**  
**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**  
**Monday, April 16, 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 March 19, 2018
- 5. Policy Board Business**
  1. Appoint Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
  2. Anoka County Cooperative Weed Management Partnership
  3. General Update on Recycling Program
  4. Resilient Communities Project Update
- 6. Board/Staff Input**
  1. Comprehensive Plan Update Final Open House Recap
- 7. Adjournment**

**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**

**4. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 04/16/2018

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

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**Information**

**Title:**

Approve Meeting Minutes Dated March 19, 2018

**Action:**

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**Attachments**

Meeting Minutes Dated March 19, 2018

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 04/13/2018

**Reviewed By**

Kathy Schmitz

**Date**

04/13/2018 09:38 AM

Started On: 04/13/2018 08:38 AM

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

On Monday, March 19, 2018, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Council Chambers 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 Michael Hiatt  
                          Board Member Lucas Trossen  
                          Board Member Michael Valentine

Members Absent:     Board Member Jane Covart

Also Present:         City Planner Chris Anderson

**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 Anderson and seconded by Board Member Hiatt to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated February 26, 2018**

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Trossen to approve the regular meeting minutes dated February 26, 2018.

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

**5.     POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

**5.01: Review Updated Draft Natural Resources Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan**

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the purpose of the case is to check in with the EPB on the draft Natural Resources Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that as staff continues to work on the chapter, they wanted to provide the Board another opportunity to review and provide input/feedback. He noted that this will be the last review by the Board prior to the third and final public open house on the overall Comprehensive Plan Update, which is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. He stated that this will not be the last time the Board reviews this chapter in the overall process.

Board Member Hiatt asked if it would be appropriate to mandate gathering specific data on a regular basis, such as the natural resources inventory. He explained that the information is only helpful and relevant if the data is current.

City Planner Anderson stated that although he agrees that language could be added stating that the City needs to be cognizant that the document cannot be static and does need to be updated, he would be hesitant to specify specific intervals for updating. He used the example of the recession in which development stood still and there were no impacts to the natural areas for a long period of time.

Board Member Hiatt stated that perhaps a large window be specified, such as 10 years. He stated that if it is not mandated that the information needs to be updated, it is easier for the document to go by the wayside.

City Planner Anderson stated that if there is consensus among the Board, he would be happy to incorporate the language.

Board Member Valentine agreed with the language suggested by Board Member Hiatt. He stated that there is probably a way that the language could be drafted to provide flexibility. He noted that he also is a member of the Steering Committee and noted that group is impressed with this report.

Chairperson Stodola asked if the document reflects the tweaks or whether there are still amendments to be done.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that there have been amendments made to the document since the last review by the Steering Committee.

Chairperson Stodola asked for input on the proposed language and how that language could both include guidelines and flexibility.

City Planner Anderson stated that he can work with staff to develop appropriately worded language and summarized the consensus of the Board that the document should not be static and should be updated within a window of 10 years, but the window should also provide flexibility should the document need to be updated sooner or later than 10 years.

Chairperson Stodola stated that this is an impressive document and commended staff and the Steering Committee for their work thus far.

City Planner Anderson asked if there are any items that the Board feels have been left out of the planning cycle for the next 10 years.

Board Member Valentine noted the changing retail market and stated that will continue to be a changing market that will have a huge effect on commercial development because of the continuing trend for buyers to purchase goods online. He noted that although it is hard to predict what will happen in that market, that has been a part of the discussions in updating the Comprehensive Plan.

#### **5.02: Review Draft Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area Chapter of Comprehensive Plan**

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the purpose of this case is to review a draft of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. He advised that staff will continue to refine the chapter but wanted to provide the Board with an opportunity to review and comment prior to the public open house on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Stodola asked if this section would fall under the same recommendation as the previous chapter, regarding the possibility of adding language to require updating documents.

City Planner Anderson commented that the natural resources inventory would include all parts of the City, including the corridor, and therefore he did not feel that the language would be necessary in this chapter. He stated that if it is the preference of the Board, the language could be added to this chapter.

Chairperson Stodola agreed that the language to be included in the last chapter would be sufficient to address all applicable areas.

Board Member Valentine stated that it could be helpful to have a brief statement to the same nature for this chapter.

Board Member Hiatt commented that it could be helpful to have updated information for specific items that would apply to this area, such as soil erosion. He noted that there may be possibilities for adding funding partners for this area because of the shared resource. He explained that if the City can stress that they would like to have updated data, to the extent possible, it could help to possibly gain assistance from the other partners that have an interest in this corridor.

City Planner Anderson agreed that perhaps that would open a door for potential grant funds to accomplish that data collection work in this specific corridor and perhaps adding that statement to this section would make more sense than he originally thought.

Board Member Anderson referenced the statement regarding a positive learning environment and asked if there are methods that will be used to attempt to communicate this information and get people interested.

City Planner Anderson replied that through the Resilient Communities Partnership, staff is working with an adult education course on organics recycling. He stated that group is helping to develop an outline on how best to communicate and educate the community on that topic. He

explained that the City could possibly use that framework with any topic of interest to communicate and educate. He stated that the information regarding the corridor is not only important for the homeowners along the river, but throughout the community and beyond.

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

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the purpose of the case is to review the Landscape and Tree Preservation Plans associated with a Site Plan for a new industrial building project. He noted that the project is located at the northeast corner of Basalt Street and 141<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW and is currently owned by the City. He noted that there is an active purchase agreement in place with the developer, Sharp and Associates. He provided additional details on the Landscape and Tree Preservations plans for this Site Plan.

Chairperson Stodola stated that this seems pretty straightforward and confirmed the consensus of the Board that there is nothing that needs to be added.

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Hiatt to recommend approval of the Landscape and Tree Preservation Plans contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

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

## **6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT**

- **Volunteer Opportunity**

City Planner Anderson asked for members of the Board and community at large that would be interested in volunteering. He explained that one of the student groups involved in the Resilient Communities Project program is working on conducting a public tree survey and needs assistance from the residents. He noted that there would be two training sessions, one night in a classroom session and a one day field session to learn how to collect data accurately. He stated that the survey will be immensely helpful to better prepare the City for the future in dealing with whatever comes along (Emerald Ash Borer, etc.). He stated that this is a great opportunity for people that like to be outside and would like to participate or give back to the community. He stated he welcomes phone calls or emails from those in the community that would be interested in participating.

Board Member Anderson asked if the dates for the training and data collection are known.

City Planner Anderson replied that the original dates for training were slated for April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> but noted that the student group determined that it would perhaps make sense to determine the number of volunteers that will be available and then work to find a date that would work best for those involved. He believed that the training would occur before the end of April. He stated that the survey work would continue throughout the summer during leaf-on conditions, in shorter segments of a few hours per session, with two or three people per team, which helps to alleviate questions and safety concerns. He noted that the data will then be compiled at the University of Minnesota. He stated that the training will help to provide volunteers with a good base of

information to use. He noted that with any survey that is done, there is a margin of error built in to allow for mistakes that may occur but advised that the study results should be at least 85 percent accurate and will provide the City will a lot of knowledge.

- **Farewell to Board Member Trossen**

City Planner Anderson reported that this is Board Member Trossen's last meeting with the EPB. He thanked him for his service to the Board over the past four years.

The members of the Board echoed their thanks to Board Member Trossen.

Board Member Trossen stated that he plans to finish his masters degree.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chris Anderson  
City Planner

ATTEST:

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JoAnn Shaw  
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**

**5. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 04/16/2018

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

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**Information**

**Title:**

Appoint Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

**Purpose/Background:**

Each year, the Commissions and Boards appoint officers. Currently, Mr. Tom Stodola serves as Chairperson and Mr. Mike Valentine serves as the Vice Chair.

**Action:**

Motion to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as Chairperson of the Environmental Policy Board through March 2019.

-and-

Motion to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as Vice Chairperson of the Environmental Policy Board through March 2019.

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**Attachments**

*No file(s) attached.*

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 04/12/2018

**Reviewed By**

Tim Gladhill

**Date**

04/12/2018 04:43 PM

Started On: 02/12/2018 02:24 PM

**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**

5. 2.

**Meeting Date:** 04/16/2018

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

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**Information**

**Title:**

Anoka County Cooperative Weed Management Partnership

**Purpose/Background:**

The purpose of this case is to update the EPB on a potential partnership opportunity amongst public entities within the county (e.g. municipalities, watershed organizations, National Park Service, Department of Agriculture, etc.). The Anoka Conservation District convened a meeting recently to discuss the concept of forming a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) that was county-wide. The primary role of the CWMA would be twofold, focusing on education as well as administering grant funds to tackle noxious weeds on both public and private lands.

**Observations/Alternatives:**

The CWMA's primary emphasis would be mapping the occurrences of noxious weeds with the greatest focus on the noxious weeds that are on the "Eradicate List" (see attachment). However, that does not mean plants such as Buckthorn, Purple Loosestrife, or Spotted Knapweed wouldn't be of relevance. But, plants on the Eradicate List are less established (or maybe not yet even present in the state) and therefore represent a greater opportunity to eliminate them altogether.

The Anoka Conservation District (ACD) has secured \$20,000 in funding through the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) that will be available through a competitive grant process for managing noxious weeds. A working committee was formed to establish criteria for evaluating and ranking potential requests. This task is intended to be completed within the next month or two.

Another outcome of participating in the CWMA is more unified education within the county. This could include trainings for public works staffs for proper identification as well as more consistent information provided to the public via newsletters, websites, and social media. Also discussed were opportunities for the creation of a 'tool kit' to provide tools for property owners to actively manage noxious weeds on their property (similar to what Ramsey already does with Weed Wrenches).

Staff will continue to participate in these discussions with other public entities within the County. The ACD would act as the Fiscal Agent and Grant Administrator and would handle all necessary reporting. Should the City determine to participate, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would need to be executed. This is a non-binding agreement that would not obligate the City to any specific actions; however, Staff has not yet received a copy of the DRAFT MOU.

**Funding Source:**

This is being handled as part of Staff's regular duties.

**Action:**

No action is required; this item is for discussion and informational purposes only at this time.

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**Attachments**

CWMA Fact Sheet

General Background Information on Establishment of a CWMA

2018 Noxious Weed List

ACD Background Information on the Formation of a CWMA

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 04/12/2018

**Reviewed By**

Tim Gladhill

**Date**

04/12/2018 04:45 PM

Started On: 04/11/2018 09:30 AM



# Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Grant Program 1-3-18

**Program Purpose:** To establish strong and sustainable CWMA's across Minnesota for the effective control of invasive species and protection of conservation lands and natural areas.

## Reasons CWMA's are Needed Across Minnesota

- 1) They provide effective weed mapping, education, outreach and management leading to the control of emerging and established invasive species.
- 2) They work effectively across geographic and ownership boundaries.
- 3) They develop strong partnerships to leverage expertise and funding
- 4) They help prevent significant ecological and economic losses from invasive species
- 5) They protect the diversity and resiliency of natural areas and conservation lands.

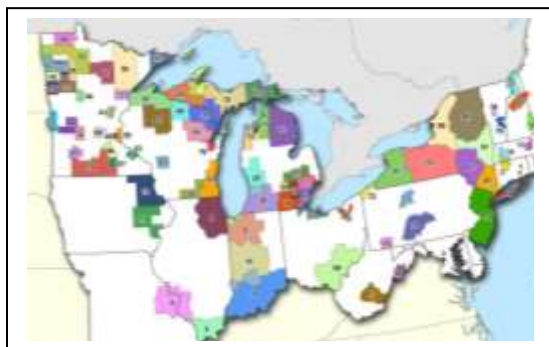
## CWMA and Program Funding History:

CWMA's started in western states to manage grazing lands. Clay County had the first Minnesota CWMA, acting as a model for the BWSR program that started in 2008.

- FY 2008/2009 - \$400,000 (legislative appropriation)
- FY 2010/2011 - \$200,000 (legislative appropriation)
- FY 2012 - \$232,470 (funded with cost-share roll-over funds)
- FY2013 – No funding available
- FY 2014/2015 - \$200,000 (legislative appropriation)
- FY 2016/2017 - \$200,000 (legislative appropriation)
- FY 2028/2019 - \$200,000 (legislative appropriation)

## Current Status of Program

Minnesota CWMA's cover 43 counties, making the state on-par with other Midwest states. Future funding sources will be needed to develop new groups and sustain existing groups.



CWMA's across the Midwest (2013)

**What is a CWMA?** ...a local organization that provides a mechanism for sharing invasive species management resources across jurisdictional boundaries in order to achieve widespread invasive species prevention and control.



Roseau CWMA working with County Commissioners



**CWMA Models:** The following are three examples of how CWMA's are tackling weed issues across Minnesota:



Marsha Watland of Becker CWMA meeting with landowners

**Becker CWMA**

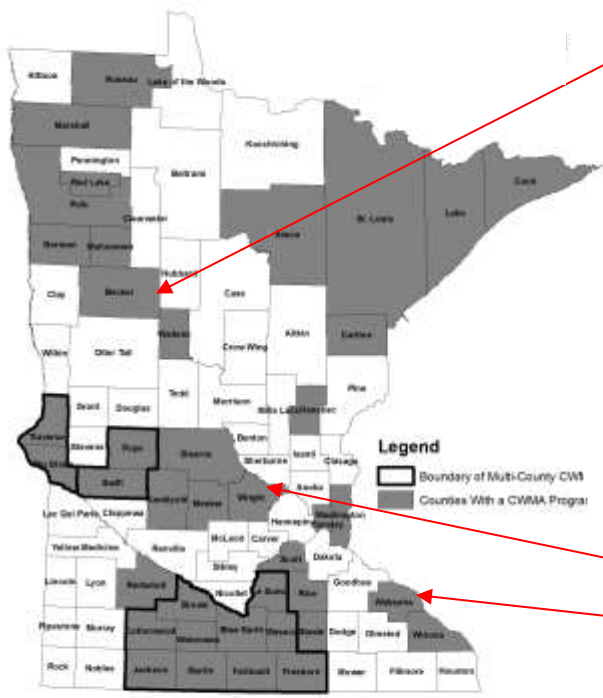
**Focus:** Emerging weed threats- crown vetch, common tansy, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, wild parsnip.

**Started:** 2006 with a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant (NFWF).

**Mapping:** Conducted baseline GIS mapping of all invasive weeds in the county.

**Management Action:** Combined manual, biological and cultural treatments for target species across the county.

**Strength of Program:** Through mapping, partnering with the County Hwy. Dept., establishment of a gravel pit certification program and developing a landowner cost-share program they have achieved effective control of weeds in the county.



Wild Parsnip

**Wright CWMA**

**Focus:** Wild Parsnip control (a significant agricultural, ecological, and human health threat to the county), now adding other species.

**Started:** 2008 with BWSR Funding.

**Mapping:** GIS Mapping of parsnip locations across county.

**Management Action:** Worked with over 100 landowners and treated 11,000 acres.

**Strength of Program:** Partnership with County Hwy. Dept., Townships and Landowners to halt the spread of an emerging weed threat.

**Wabasha CWMA**

**Focus:** Addressing emerging weed threats from Japanese knotweed and Japanese barberry, as well as common buckthorn and invasive honeysuckle shrubs.

**Started:** 2008 with BWSR Funding, developed own cost-share program.

**Mapping:** GIS Mapping of 1000 acres of invasive species populations.

**Management Action:** Over 150 acres have been treated for removal of invasive species in important habitat areas.

**Strength of Program:** Effective control of emerging weed threats. Focus on protecting intact plant communities and re-seeding native vegetation after removal.



Terri Peters of Wabasha CWMA monitoring invasive species

**DI Critical Area Stabilization  
Added Eligible Component**



# Establishment of Cooperative Weed Management Areas

5/28/08

## Definition

Establishment of Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) for the control of invasive species and noxious weeds.

## Purpose

CWMAs are developed to restore or enhance natural communities and manage existing and emerging invasive plants that are detrimental to natural lands.

Primary CWMA goals include:

- Development of strong partnerships based on cooperation among agencies, landowners and other interested partners to control invasive species.
- The creation of long term and sustainable Cooperative Weed Management Areas.
- The removal of invasive plant species through the combined efforts of partnering entities.

## Conditions Where Practice Applies – one time start-up expense

This practice applies only to the BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant Program and involves a one-time start-up expense for beginning Cooperative Weed Management Areas.

## Criteria

A Cooperative Weed Management Area is a partnership of federal, state and local government agencies; tribes; individuals; and various other interested groups that manage noxious weeds or invasive plants in a defined area. General criteria for Cooperative Weed Management Area establishment include the following:

- CWMAs occupy a defined geographic area with a common geography, weed problem, community, climate, political boundary, or land use.
- The majority of natural resource managers and key private landowners in the area are involved or represented.
- CWMAs are committed to cooperation.

- CWMAAs operate under a comprehensive plan that addresses the management or prevention of one or more noxious weeds or invasive plants.
- CWMAAs have a project Steering Committee composed of cooperators who are committed to working together to manage invasive species within a defined geographic area.
- CWMAAs have a clear long-term weed management plan based on an integrated pest management approach using the principles of ecosystem management.

Source: Center for Invasive Plant Management

Steps common to setting up a CWMA include:

- Determine common goals
- Choose a CWMA fiscal manager
- Hold a public meeting and invite all partners
- Establish a steering committee
- Select a chairperson and a vice-chairperson
- Develop agreements (Cooperative Agreements, Hold Harmless Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding are common)
- Develop a strategic management plan (including invasive species mapping)
- Develop an annual operating plan
- Establish and utilize committees
- Implement plans

## **Considerations**

When developing a Cooperative Weed Management Area the following are key considerations for the establishment of an efficient and sustainable CWMA:

- Completeness of plan for setting up a CWMA
- CWMA long term sustainability
- Strength of partnerships
- Number of partners involved
- Cash and/or In-kind contribution
- Efficient use of funding
- Development of concrete and attainable weed management goals and strategies to control invasive plant species from natural lands through an integrated pest management approach
- Development of strategies for the restoration/reconstruction of native communities through an ecosystem approach
- Development of plan for public outreach and publicizing the project.

## Eligible Expenses

Funding for this practice represents a one-time base allocation for start-up expenses. Eligible expenses include equipment necessary for implementing CWMA goals, staff time and expenses related to establishing Cooperative Weed Management Areas, publicity and outreach costs and travel expenses.

Equipment purchased with the funding provided will remain the property of the State for its useful life. After the contract period, it may remain in the custody of the Grantee so long as it is used for the purposes of promoting and supporting the project. The State may take possession of the equipment at such time as it becomes necessary to use it for State purposes.

## Plans

Strategic management plans and annual operating plans are commonly used to guide the activities of CWMA. Strategic management plans help define the goals of the CWMA and the steps planned to accomplish those goals. It serves as a road map for the CWMA as it begins to carry out projects. The strategic plan should clearly define CWMA objectives and priorities. A strategic management plan will help identify concerns, quantify scale and scope of problems, and set short-term and long-term priorities for CWMA operations. Strategic management plans generally include:

- An accurate map of the CWMA
- An inventory and a map of known priority invasive plant infestations
- Management responsibilities including the establishment of management areas or zones
- Criteria for the prioritization of invasive plant management activities
- Control techniques likely to be used in your CWMA
- Equipment, supplies, people, and other resources available for the CWMA from each partner

For examples of a strategic management plan, see [www.mipn.org](http://www.mipn.org).

Once the steering committee develops the strategic plan, work priorities for the upcoming year can be identified in an annual operating plan. This document will detail annual projects; expected in-kind contributions, necessary funding, and the personnel needed for project completion, and will serve as the basis for outside grant requests. Each project identified in the annual operating plan should have an assigned project manager. This is the person responsible for project implementation, coordination, expenditures, in-kind documentation, completion, photo records, and final reports. Annual operating plans vary greatly in size and complexity. Newly established CWMA may have one or a few annual projects and may include grant applications as part of the annual operating plan. For examples of an annual operating plan, see [www.mipn.org](http://www.mipn.org).

Source: CWMA Cookbook

## Operation and Maintenance

CWMA can vary in their focus. Common focus areas for CWMA include education, prevention, early detection, control efforts and monitoring. The focus of CWMA should be included in the strategic management plan and annual operating plans. The

strategic management plan and annual operating plans will guide project implementation. Plans should be revisited periodically to ensure that project goals are being met.

### **Citations and References**

CWMA Cookbook <http://www.mipn.org/MIPN%20Cookbook%20Lo-res.pdf>

Midwest Invasive Plant Network [www.mipn.org](http://www.mipn.org)

The Minnesota Noxious Weed Law (Minnesota Statutes 18.75-18.91) defines a noxious weed as an annual, biennial, or perennial plant that the Commissioner of Agriculture designates to be injurious to public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock, or other property. The purpose of the law is to protect residents of the state from the injurious effects of noxious weeds.

There are currently forty-two plant species regulated as noxious weeds in Minnesota. Twenty-three plants are listed as [Prohibited Noxious Weeds](#) which consist of two regulatory lists – 14 plants listed on the [Prohibited Eradicate List](#) and 9 plants listed on the [Prohibited Control List](#). Fifteen species are listed as [Restricted Noxious Weeds](#) and four species are listed as a [Specially Regulated Plants](#) that can be enforced under specific conditions. **Years following a species name designate when it was listed.**

**A. Prohibited Noxious Weeds** – Attempts must be made by all landowners to control or eradicate species on these lists. These species cannot be transported illegally or sold in Minnesota.

**Eradicate List** – must be eradicated by killing the above and belowground parts of the plant.

1.	Palmer Amaranth - 2014	<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i> S.Watson
2.	Oriental Bittersweet - 2010	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> Thunb.
3.	Diffuse Knapweed - 2014	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i> Lam.
4.	Brown Knapweed - 2012	<i>Centaurea jacea</i> L.
5.	Yellow Starthistle* - 2010	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> L.
6.	Meadow Knapweed - 2012	<i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i> C.E. Britton
7.	Poison Hemlock - 2017	<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.
8.	Black Swallow-wort - 2012	<i>Cynanchum louiseae</i> Kartesz & Gandhi
9.	Grecian Foxglove - 2010	<i>Digitalis lanata</i> Ehrh.
10.	Common Teasel - 2011	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> L.
11.	Cutleaf Teasel - 2011	<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i> L.
12.	Giant Hogweed* - 2011	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> Sommier & Levier
13.	Japanese Hops - 2011	<i>Humulus japonicus</i> Siebold & Zucc.
14.	Dalmatian Toadflax - 2011	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i> (L.) Mill.

**\*Species not known to be in Minnesota, but have been determined to be a threat to invade the state.**

**Control List** – must be controlled preventing the maturation and spread of propagating parts.

1.	Common Barberry - 2016	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> L.
2.	Narrowleaf Bittercress - 2011	<i>Cardamine impatiens</i> L.
3.	Plumeless Thistle - 1975	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i> L.
4.	Spotted Knapweed - 2001	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> L. ssp. <i>micranthos</i> (Gugler) Hayek
5.	Canada Thistle - 1872	<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.) Scop.
6.	Leafy Spurge - 1992	<i>Euphorbia esula</i> L.
7.	Purple Loosestrife - 1992	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> L., <i>L. virgatum</i> L.
8.	Wild Parsnip - 2010	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i> L. (Except for non-wild cultivated varieties)
9.	Common Tansy - 2010	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> L.

**B. Restricted Noxious Weeds** – may not be sold, transported illegally, or intentionally planted in Minnesota.

1.	Tree of Heaven - 2016	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> (Mill.) Swingle
2.	Garlic Mustard - 2013	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> (M. Bieb) Cavara & Grande
3.	Porcelain Berry - 2016	<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i> (Maxim.) Trautv.
4.	Crown Vetch - 2016	<i>Securigera varia</i> (L.) – Formerly known as <i>Coronilla varia</i> L.
5.	Wild Carrot/Queen Anne's Lace - 2016	<i>Dacus carota</i> L.
6.	Glossy Buckthorn (and all cultivars) - 1999	<i>Frangula alnus</i> Mill.
7.	Amur Honeysuckle - 2016	<i>Lonicera maackii</i> (Rupr.) Herder
8.	Morrow's Honeysuckle - 2016	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> A. Gray
9.	Bell's Honeysuckle - 2016	<i>Lonicera x bella</i> Zabel
10.	Common Reed (non-native) - 2013	<i>Phragmites australis</i> (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud. ssp. <i>australis</i>
11.	Common or European Buckthorn - 1999	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> L.
12.	Black Locust - 2016	<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i> L.
13.	Multiflora Rose - 2011	<i>Rosa multiflora</i> Thunb.
14.	Tatarian Honeysuckle - 2016	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> L.
15.	Japanese Barberry Cultivars** - 2017	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> DC.

## **\*\*Japanese Barberry Cultivars Regulated as Restricted Noxious Weeds in Minnesota**

• 'Angel Wings' • 'Antares' • *var. atropurpurea* • 'Bailtwo' (Burgundy Carousel®) • 'Monomb' (Cherry Bomb™) • 'Crimson Velvet' • 'Erecta' • 'Gold Ring' • 'Bailsel' (Golden Carousel®; *B. koreana* × *B. thunbergii* hybrid) • 'Inermis' • 'Bailgreen' (Jade Carousel®) • 'JN Redleaf' (Ruby Jewel™) • 'JN Variegated' (Stardust™) • 'Kelleris' • 'Kobold' • 'Anderson' (Lustre Green™) • 'Marshall Upright' • 'Painter's Palette' • 'Pow Wow' • 'Red Rocket' • 'Rose Glow' • 'Bailone' (Ruby Carousel®) • 'Silver Mile' • 'Sparkle' • 'Tara' (Emerald Carousel®; *B. koreana* × *B. thunbergii* hybrid) • *Wild Type* (parent species – green barberry)

### **C. Specially Regulated Plants** –shall be handled, controlled or eradicated according to specified regulations.

1. **Poison Ivy** (*Toxicodendron radicans* L. Kuntze and *T. rydbergii* (Small ex Rhdb.) Greene) - 2010  
Must be eradicated or controlled for public safety along rights-of-ways, trails, public accesses, business properties open to the public or on parts of lands where public access for business or commerce is granted. Must also be eradicated or controlled along property borders when requested by adjoining landowners.
2. **Japanese Knotweed** (*Polygonum cuspidatum* Seib. & Zucc.) - 2013
3. **Giant Knotweed** (*Polygonum sachalinense* F. Schmidt ex Maxim.) - 2013  
Any person, corporation, business or other retail entity distributing Japanese and/or giant knotweeds for sale within the state, must have information directly affixed to the plant or container packaging that it is being sold with, indicating that it is inadvisable to plant this species within 100 feet of a water body or its designated flood plain as defined by Minnesota Statute 103F.111, Subdivision 4.
4. **Amur Maple** (*Acer ginnala* Maxim.) - 2016  
Sellers shall affix a label that advises buyers to only plant Amur maple and its cultivars in landscapes where the seedlings will be controlled by mowing or other means. Amur maple should be planted at least 100 yards from natural areas.

### **D. County Noxious Weeds**

County Noxious Weeds are plants that are designated by individual county boards to be enforced as prohibited noxious weeds within the county's jurisdiction and must be approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture, in consultation with the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. Each county board must submit newly proposed County Noxious Weeds to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for review. Approved County Noxious Weeds shall also be posted with the county's general weed notice prior to May 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Counties are solely responsible for developing County Noxious Weed lists and their enforcement. **Contact your local County Agricultural Inspector or Designated Employee for more information on County Noxious Weeds**  
[www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/caillist.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/caillist.aspx)

#### **Adding species to County Noxious Weed Lists**

It is up to an individual county to determine if they will have a designated county noxious weed list and the process for selection of species to be added to the list. If the county board of commissioners establishes a county noxious weed list, townships wanting to add species should pass a resolution with the county's Township Association showing that the representative of townships for that county are in favor of adding a particular species and enforcing it. This resolution can then be submitted to the County Agricultural Inspector or Designated Employee for that jurisdiction. It is still up to the county board of commissioners to decide if they want to list and enforce any species submitted to them via the township association or other entities. Minnesota Department of Agriculture approved County Noxious Weed Lists can be enforced by authorized agents of the commissioner under the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law as outlined in *Minnesota Statutes 18.80 – 18.81*.

Townships can also use their local ordinance process to regulate plant species that are not listed by the county or state. Enforcement of species listed via a municipal ordinance is the responsibility of municipal authorities and cannot be regulated under or associated with the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law - *MS 18.75 – 18.91*.

#### **Additional resources for regulated noxious weeds and non-regulated invasive plants in Minnesota**

MDA Website - [www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol)

MN DOT Website - [www.dot.state.mn.us/roadsides/vegetation/pdf/noxiousweeds.pdf](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadsides/vegetation/pdf/noxiousweeds.pdf)

MN DNR Website - [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/index.html)

MN BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Areas - <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/cwma/CWMA.html>

# Anoka Cooperative Weed Management Area

## DESIRED MEETING OUTCOMES:

- **Strengthen relationships between staff of various organizations and local government and engaged citizens.**
- **Outline Key Activities of CWMA, current funding opportunity and ACD's role.**
- **Solicit Partners interest.**
- **Determine 1<sup>st</sup> Steps in forming Anoka CWMA Partnership:**

## AGENDA

<b>Time</b>	<b>Content</b>
10:00 AM	<b>Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review agenda</li><li>• Partner Introductions</li></ul>
	<b>Key Activities of CWMA</b>
	<b>Current funding opportunity and ACD's role</b>
	<b>Partners Interest</b>
	<b>Determine 1<sup>st</sup> Steps in forming Anoka CWMA Partnership</b>

# What is a CWMA?

---

**Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) are local organizations that facilitate collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries for more effective invasive plant management.**

**Midwest Invasive Plant Network**  
**<https://www.mipn.org/>**

## 6 basic characteristics of a CWMA

---

1. Operate within a defined, local geographic area
2. Involve a broad cross-section of landowners and natural resource managers
3. Led by a steering committee
4. Long-term commitment to cooperation (e.g. MOU)
5. Have a comprehensive plan for invasive plant management
6. Facilitate cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries

# Key Activities of CWMA

“CWMA Cookbook: A Recipe for Success” at [http://www.mipn.org/cwma\\_resources.html](http://www.mipn.org/cwma_resources.html) •

- Building Strong Partnerships: Public landowners, private landowners, private organizations
  - Determine common goals
  - Identifying and prioritizing emerging weed threats
  - Sharing Resources between partners
  - Education
  - Prevention
  - Early Detection
  - Management/control of priority species
  - Monitoring
  - Mapping
- 
- Governed by a steering committee to establish priorities, develop strategic plans, document progress
  - Long-term commitment to cooperation – Memorandum of Understanding:
  - Comprehensive plan that addresses the management of invasive species within Anoka County: strategic management plan and an annual operating plan



# Anoka CWMA Partners

Anoka Conservation District	<b>Columbus</b>	Coon Creek Watershed District
Anoka County AIS Coordinator	City of Coon Rapids	Department of Agriculture, biocontrols
Anoka County Environmental Services	City of East Bethel	DNR, terrestrial invasive plants
Anoka County Parks	City of Fridley	Linwood Township
Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve	City of Ham Lake	Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
City of Andover	City of Lino Lakes	MNGreenCorps
City of Anoka	<b>Nowthen</b>	NRCS
City of Blaine	<b>Oak Grove</b>	Rice Creek Watershed District
City of Centerville	City of Ramsey	Springbrook Nature Center
City of Circle Pines	City of Spring Lake Park	<b>Spring Lake Park</b>
City of Columbia Heights	City of St. Francis	Wargo Nature Center
<b>Active Citizens</b>		

Contact for those in red?

***WHO AM I MISSING?***

# Current funding opportunity

- \$20,000 BWSR Grant Awarded Amount
- \$5,000 Required Match Amount (cash or in-kind cash value of goods, materials, and services)
- Funding ends: December 31, 2021
- Annual RFP for more opportunities
  
- Invasive species prevention, mapping and monitoring, education, control and management
- \$10,000 cost share program (\$5,000 land owner contribution)

# Anoka Conservation District's role

- ACD will serve as the Anoka County CWMA facilitator, fiscal manager, grant reporting
- ACD staff will use the Great Lakes Early Detection Network and internal GIS to map targeted invasive species

Seek additional funding sources for Anoka CWMA Partnership project ideas: FY2019 MDA Noxious Weed Grant Assistance program (application posted after August 2018)

# 2018-2021 Anoka CWMA Grant Deliverables

- ACWMA will form a Steering Committee and MoA
- develop education materials and management plans for at least four invasive species
- Engage public through workshops, volunteer events, and cost share program for controlling invasive species and planting native species
- Potential initiatives may include but are not limited to: contributing to the U of MN's MNPhrag Project; eradicating wild parsnip populations; educating public works employees on invasive species identification and control; biological control of purple loosestrife; and volunteer events to pull garlic mustard, control buckthorn, and establish native vegetation.
- two workshops, organize at least one invasive species removal volunteer event, loan equipment, and provide cost-share assistance

# Early Detection, Mapping, and Management Weed Prioritization in Anoka County

## MN Noxious Weed List

- Oriental Bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus* Thunb. (Eradicate List)
- Wild Parsnip, *Pastinaca sativa* L. (Control List)
- Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria, virgatum* (L.) (Control List)
- Spotted Knapweed, *Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *Micranthos* (Control List)
- Canada Thistle, *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop. (Control List)
- Common barberry, *Berberis vulgaris* (Control List)
- Narrowleaf Bittercress, *Cardamine impatiens* L. (Control List)
- Leafy Spurge, *Euphorbia esula* (L.) (Control List)
- Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria, virgatum* (L.) (Control List)
- Common Tansy, *Tanacetum vulgare* (L.) (Control List)
- Common Reed -non-native *Phragmites australis* subspecies *australis* (Cav.) Trin. Ex Steud. (Restricted)
- Common Buckthorn, *Rhamnus cathartica* (L.) (Restricted)
- Glossy Buckthorn, *Frangula alnus* Mill. (Restricted)
- Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolate* (Bieb.) (Restricted)

**WHAT AM I MISSING?**

# Partners' Interest and Role ?

- Weed Species?
- Locations?
- Activities: prevention, mapping and monitoring, education, control and management ?

# Determine 1<sup>st</sup> Steps in forming Anoka CWMA Partnership

- Establish Anoka CWMA Partnership Goals and Priorities – target species, projects, actions
- Develop a Steering Committee (and sub committees)
- Create a commitment to cooperation – Memorandum of Understanding\*
- Comprehensive plan for invasive plant management
- Annual operating plan: annual projects, funding, partner responsibility
- Cost Share Application and Ranking Criteria for Cost Share Program\*
- Implement Activities and Projects
  
- *Examples of Noxious Weed Strategic Plans?*
- *Review draft MOU and Cost Share materials\**
- *Next meeting in May?*

Springbrook Nature Center Annual Park Clean Up  
**Garlic Mustard Pull**  
 Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 12 pm



MN Dept of Agriculture Noxious and Invasive Weed Program  
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol>

***Favorite Garlic Mustard Fact Sheet?***



**Garlic Mustard** *Alliaria petiolata* [Bieb] Cavara & Grande

**Native Origin:** Europe

**Description:** Garlic mustard is a cool season biennial herb in the mustard family (Brassicaceae) with stalked, triangular to heart-shaped, coarsely toothed leaves that give off an odor of garlic when crushed. First-year plants appear as a rosette of green leaves close to the ground.



Rosettes remain green through the winter and develop into mature flowering plants the following spring. Flowering plants of garlic mustard reach from 2 to 3-1/2 feet in height and produce buttonlike clusters of small white flowers, each with four petals in the shape of a cross. Beginning in May (in the mid-Atlantic Coast Plain region), seeds are produced in erect, slender pods and become shiny black when mature. By late June, when most garlic mustard plants have died, they can be recognized only by the erect stalks of dry, pale brown seedpods that remain, and may hold viable seed, through the summer.

**Habitat:** Garlic mustard frequently occurs in moist, shaded soil of river floodplains, forests, and roadsides, edges of woods and trails edges and forest openings. Disturbed areas are most susceptible to rapid invasion and dominance. Though invasive under a wide range of light and soil conditions, garlic mustard is associated with calcareous soils and does not tolerate high acidity. Growing season inundation may limit invasion of garlic mustard to some extent.

**Distribution:** Garlic mustard is located from eastern Canada, south to Virginia and as far west as Kansas and Nebraska. See shaded areas on the distribution map.



**Ecological Impacts:** Garlic mustard poses a severe threat to native plants and animals in forest communities. Once introduced to an area, garlic mustard out-competes native plants by aggressively monopolizing light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space.

**Control and Management:**

**Mechanical-** Hand removal of entire root system of plant is practical for light infestations. For larger infestations cut stems at ground level or within several inches of the ground, to prevent seed production.

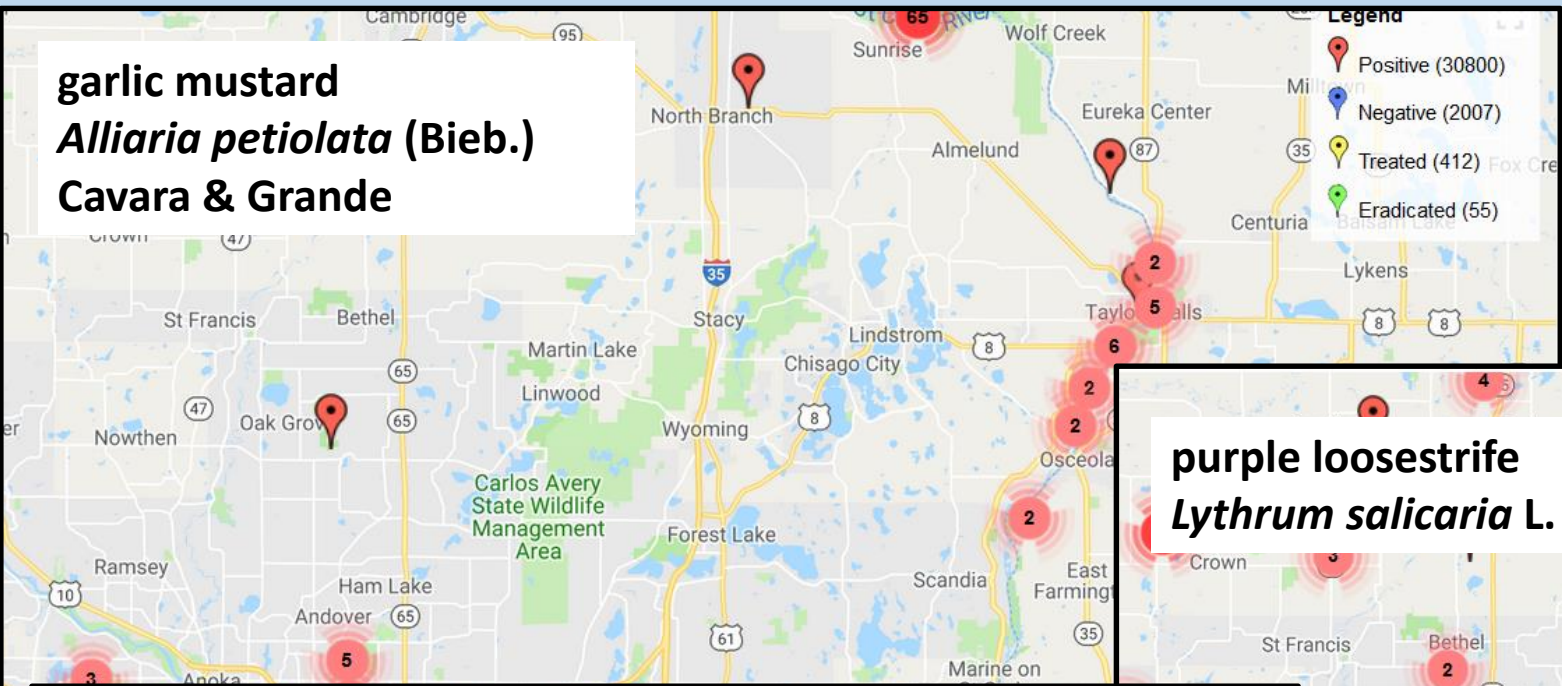
**Chemical-** Herbicide (e.g., Roundup) may be applied for very heavy infestations. Fire can be used but can encourage germination of stored seeds and promote growth of emerging garlic mustard seedlings.

**Biocontrol-** Five weevils and one flea beetle feed on garlic mustard

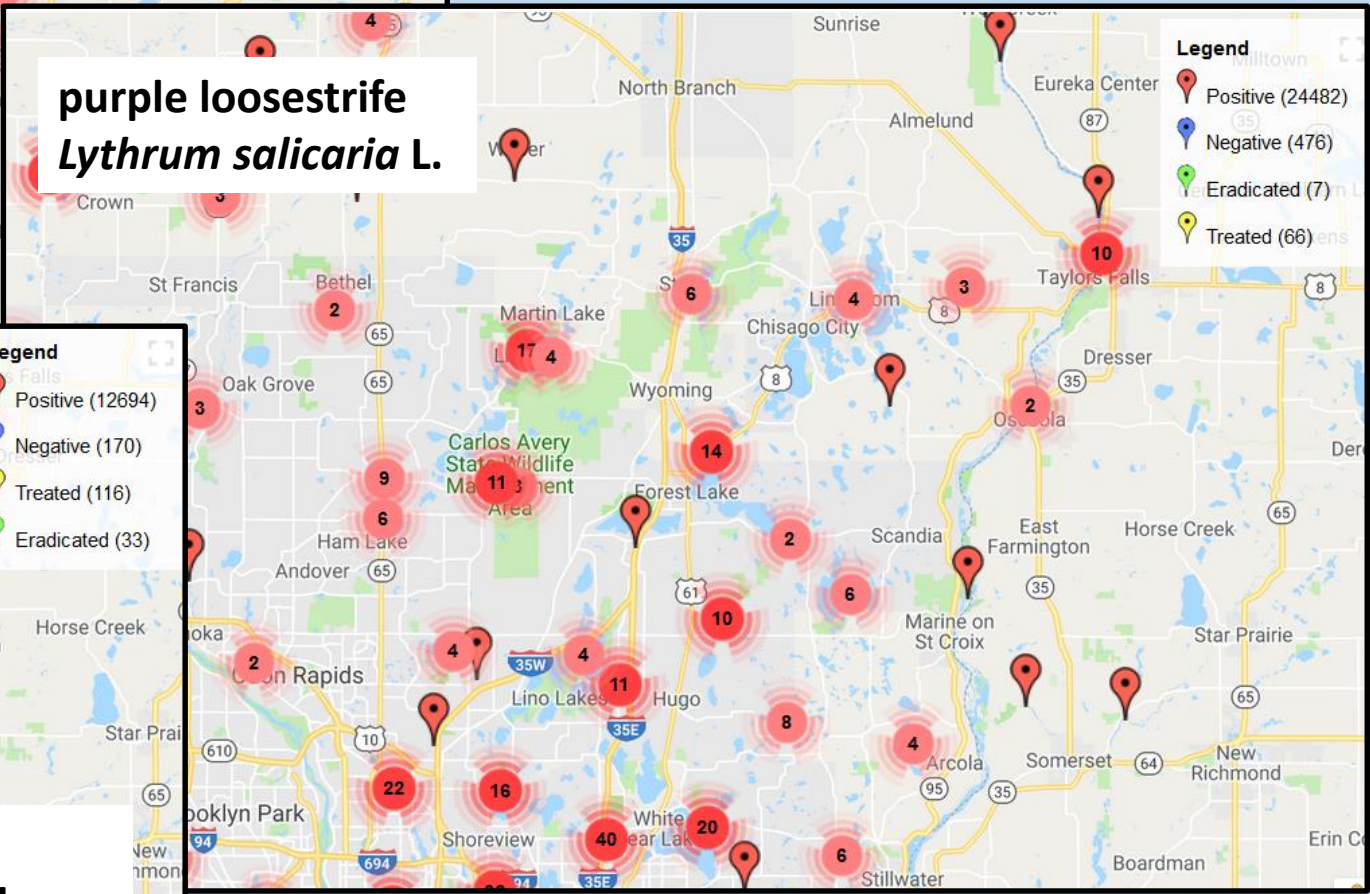
**References:** <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm)  
 Biological Control of Invasive Plants in the Eastern United States p. 365-369

# EDDMapS Great Lakes Early Detection Network

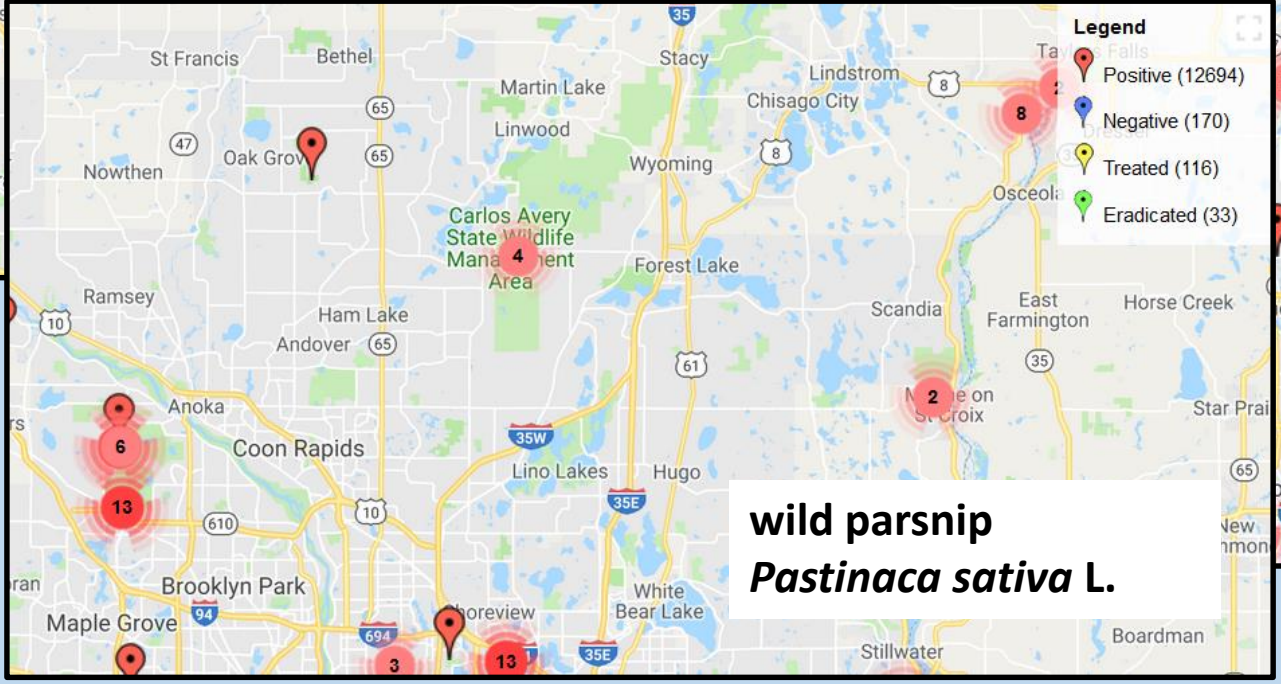
**garlic mustard**  
*Alliaria petiolata* (Bieb.)  
Cavara & Grande



**purple loosestrife**  
*Lythrum salicaria* L.



**wild parsnip**  
*Pastinaca sativa* L.



**WHAT should we MAP?**

**Meeting Date:** 04/16/2018

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

**Information**

**Title:**

General Update on Recycling Program

**Purpose/Background:**

The purpose of this case is to provide a brief, general update regarding recycling activities through the first quarter of 2018.

**Observations/Alternatives:**

Through the first quarter, our single family residential customers have recycled approximately 610 tons of material. Additionally, another approximately nineteen (19) tons have been recycled from our multi-family residents (apartment buildings). Thus, through curbside recycling, the City has achieved about twenty-three percent (23%) of its recycling goal. This does not include any 'special materials' that are reported by some haulers when collected curbside, such as appliances, tires, and/or televisions.

The City offered two additional recycling opportunities for residents, which included holiday lights recycling and a dumpster for extra cardboard recycling. The holiday lights program resulted in about 1.36 tons of low-grade copper wire getting recycled. In the three (3) weeks of January that cardboard dumpster was available, 2.35 tons of cardboard was recycled. Both of these opportunities continue to be very popular and residents are taking full advantage of them.

Finally, the City's Organics Drop-Off Recycling program continues to be well utilized. There are currently ninety (90) participants registered for this program. In the first quarter of 2018, these participants successfully recycled 0.90 tons of organics. The current participants are doing a tremendous job; the next step for the City is to figure out how to continue to grow the program to include more participants.

A potential opportunity that Staff will be exploring for this fall is a yard waste drop-off opportunity. However, there are a number of logistics that would need to be sorted out. Staff will continue to research this idea to see if it is viable or not and will keep the EPB updated.

**Funding Source:**

Staff time spent on recycling and waste reduction activities is charged to the Recycling Account, which is funded through monies from the Select Committee On Recycling and the Environment (SCORE).

**Action:**

No action is needed. This is for informational purposes only.

**Attachments**

*No file(s) attached.*

**Form Review**

**Inbox**

**Reviewed By**

**Date**

Tim Gladhill  
Chris Anderson (Originator)  
Tim Gladhill  
Form Started By: Chris Anderson  
Final Approval Date: 04/12/2018

Chris Anderson  
Chris Anderson  
Tim Gladhill

04/12/2018 03:07 PM  
04/12/2018 03:09 PM  
04/12/2018 04:44 PM  
Started On: 04/12/2018 02:16 PM

**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**

**5. 4.**

**Meeting Date:** 04/16/2018

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

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**Information**

**Title:**

Resilient Communities Project Update

**Purpose/Background:**

As the Board knows, the City is working as the Community Partner with the University of Minnesota's Resilient Communities Project (RCP) for the 2017-2018 school year. Two projects, Organics Recycling Plan and Water Conservation Toolkit, were matched with the Sustainable Communities course (SUST 4004) for the spring semester. Representatives from the two student groups will be in attendance this evening to provide a brief overview of their work to date. This not only provides an opportunity for the students to get some real world experience but also allows the EPB to provide any comments and or feedback on the information to date. Note that these are not the final deliverables, which will not be submitted to their professor until early May.

**Action:**

No action is required.

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**Attachments**

*No file(s) attached.*

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 04/12/2018

**Reviewed By**

Tim Gladhill

**Date**

04/12/2018 04:43 PM

Started On: 04/12/2018 04:10 PM

**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**

**6. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 04/16/2018

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

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**Information**

**Title:**

Comprehensive Plan Update Final Open House Recap

**Purpose/Background:**

The City hosted its third and final public open house on the draft components of its Comprehensive Plan Update on April 9, 2018. There were close to seventy (70) individuals that attended and had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on all of the draft chapters, including Natural Resources. There was some good dialogue regarding various aspects of the Natural Resources Chapter, but nothing with regard to any additions to, or concerns with, the current content. Staff continues to work on the finalizing the information and reconciling it with the other chapters. Current drafts of both the Natural Resources and Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) Chapters are attached.

**Action:**

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**Attachments**

Natural Resources Chapter

MRRCA Chapter

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 04/12/2018

**Reviewed By**

Tim Gladhill

**Date**

04/12/2018 04:44 PM

Started On: 04/12/2018 04:00 PM

# 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

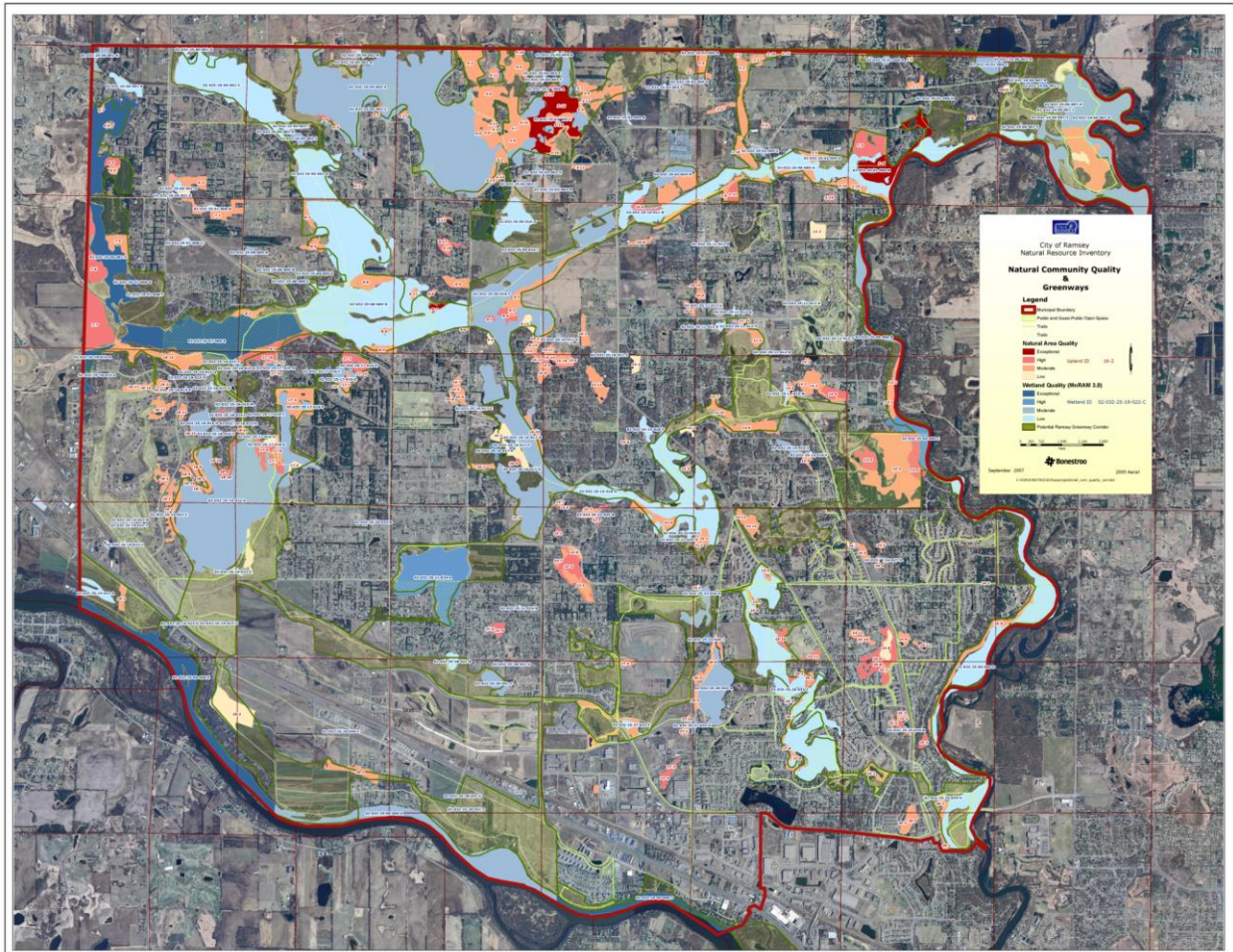
Before looking forward to what Ramsey will strive to accomplish within the timeframe of this Comprehensive Plan, it is always good to pause and look back to what it was able to accomplish over during the course of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The last plan was adopted in 2010. While a number of factors 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

Ramsey undertook two (2) comprehensive inventories in the mid-2000s; a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and a Wetland Inventory. Both of these data sets are referenced any time a new development is proposed. These data sets help inform Ramsey if there are significant and/or high value natural resources within a development site that may warrant greater protections. While both provide valuable insight, Ramsey acknowledges that both require periodic updates to ensure that the data is accurate and relevant. There has been no specific timeframe identified for updates to either, but for this data to remain useful, they should be revisited no less than every ten (10) to fifteen (15) years.

## Existing Natural Resource Quality



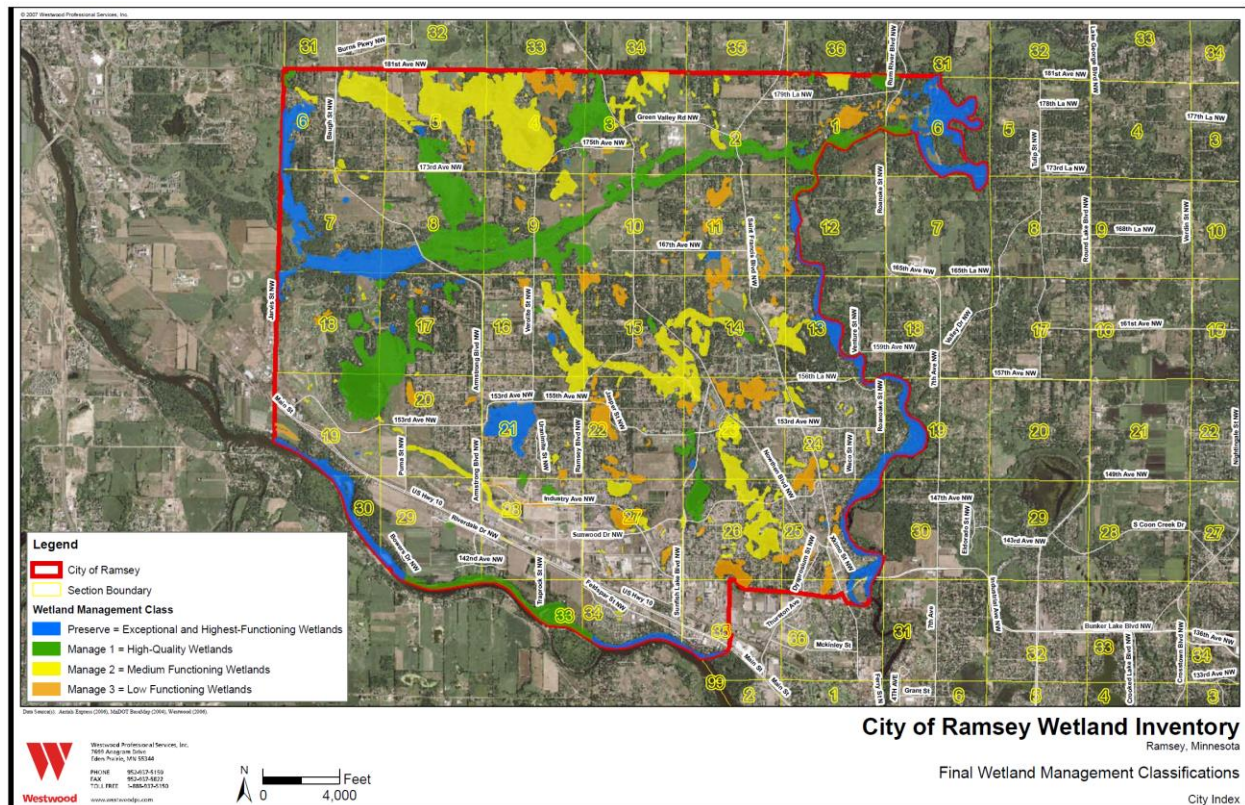
The City's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), which was completed in 2007, is relied upon to help inform good land use policy as it relates to stewardship of our natural resources. While wetlands are generally protected from modification by both state and federal regulations, that is not the case with 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.

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## 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.

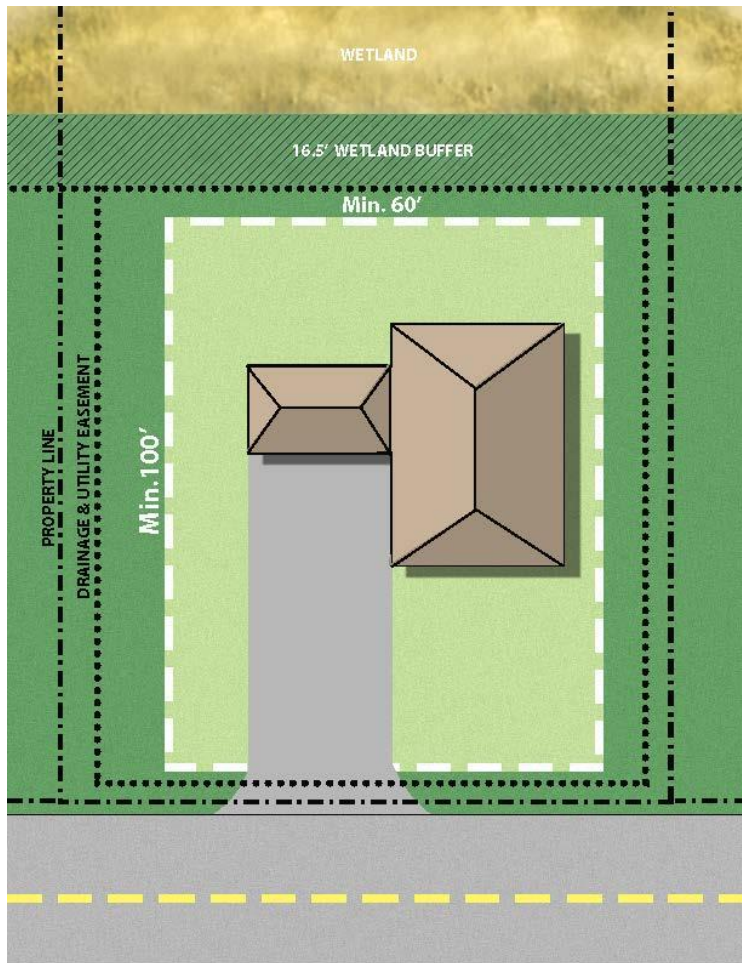
- Buildable Area Standards
- Pollinator Friendly Habitat
- Shoreline Protection

### 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*

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# 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](http://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)

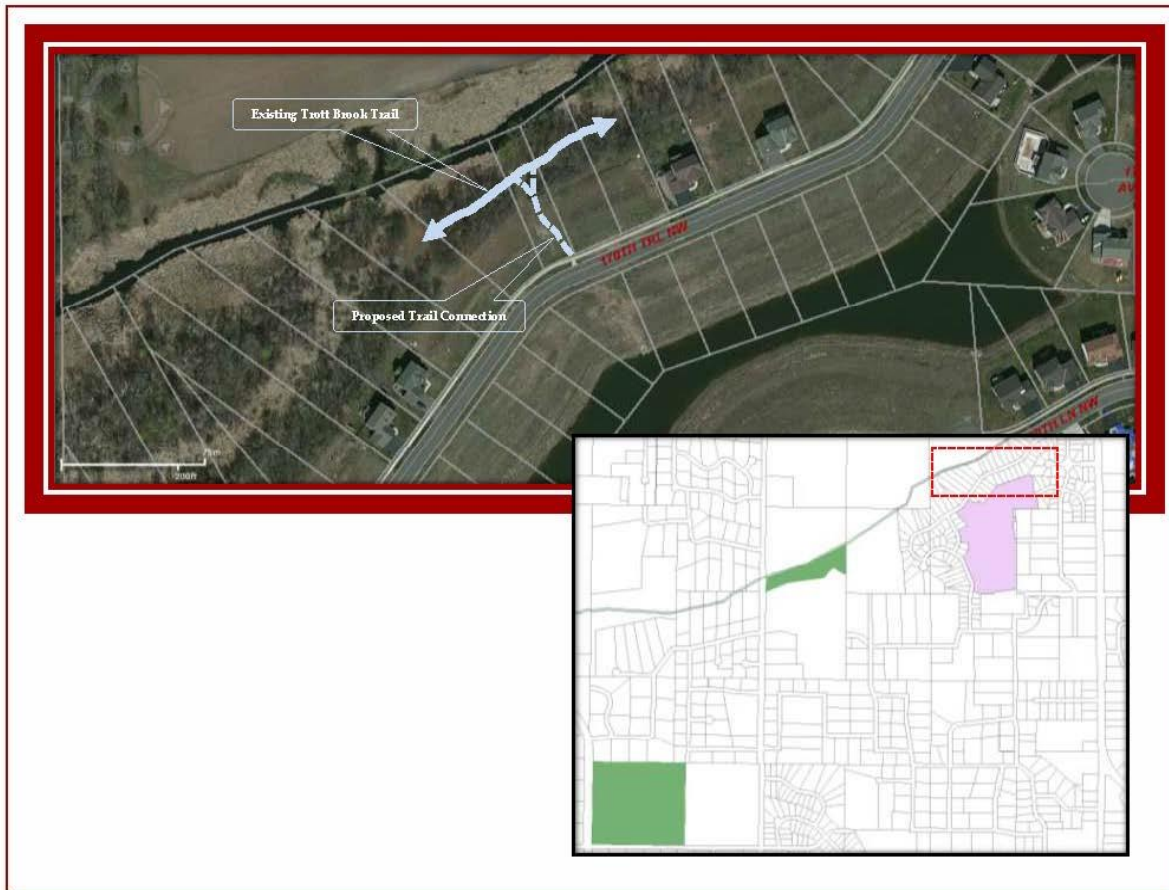
Pollinator Buffer  
(6.5 Acres)

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 and the Department of Natural Resources, 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

In the summer months, Ramsey's water usage typically doubles or almost triples that of winter months. This is not due to a lack of concern by Ramsey residents regarding water supply, but rather it is the result of the predominantly sandy nature of sandy soils. This previously prompted Ramsey to adopt a topsoil requirement applicable to any property with a Building Permit for a new principal building. However, this is not necessarily addressing the water usage as many property owners have not altered the programming of their irrigation system to account for the higher organic content of the topsoil.

The Environmental Policy Board (EPB) recommended a change to City Code that required any new in-ground irrigation system to be equipped with some form of water efficient technology (e.g. smart controller, soil moisture sensors, evapotranspiration sensors, etc.). But, beyond that, the EPB also expressed an interest in incentives and/or rebates to encourage existing property owners with in-ground irrigation systems to consider retrofitting their irrigation system with water efficient technologies. Due to the greater financial impact of retrofitting, the EPB felt that a carrot, rather than a stick, approach would be better.

There continues to be a need for public education on the current status of groundwater availability and conservation techniques and measures that could be implemented by individual property owners to help reduce the demand on aquifers. Ramsey has a keen interest in this subject as it had previously explored utilizing surface water from the Mississippi River as a source of drinking water. However, this is truly a

regional issue and one that Ramsey believes needs a regional solution. Thus, instituting a education and awareness campaign around groundwater has the distinct ability to help delay and defer any significant capital expenses that Ramsey may incur.

## 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.

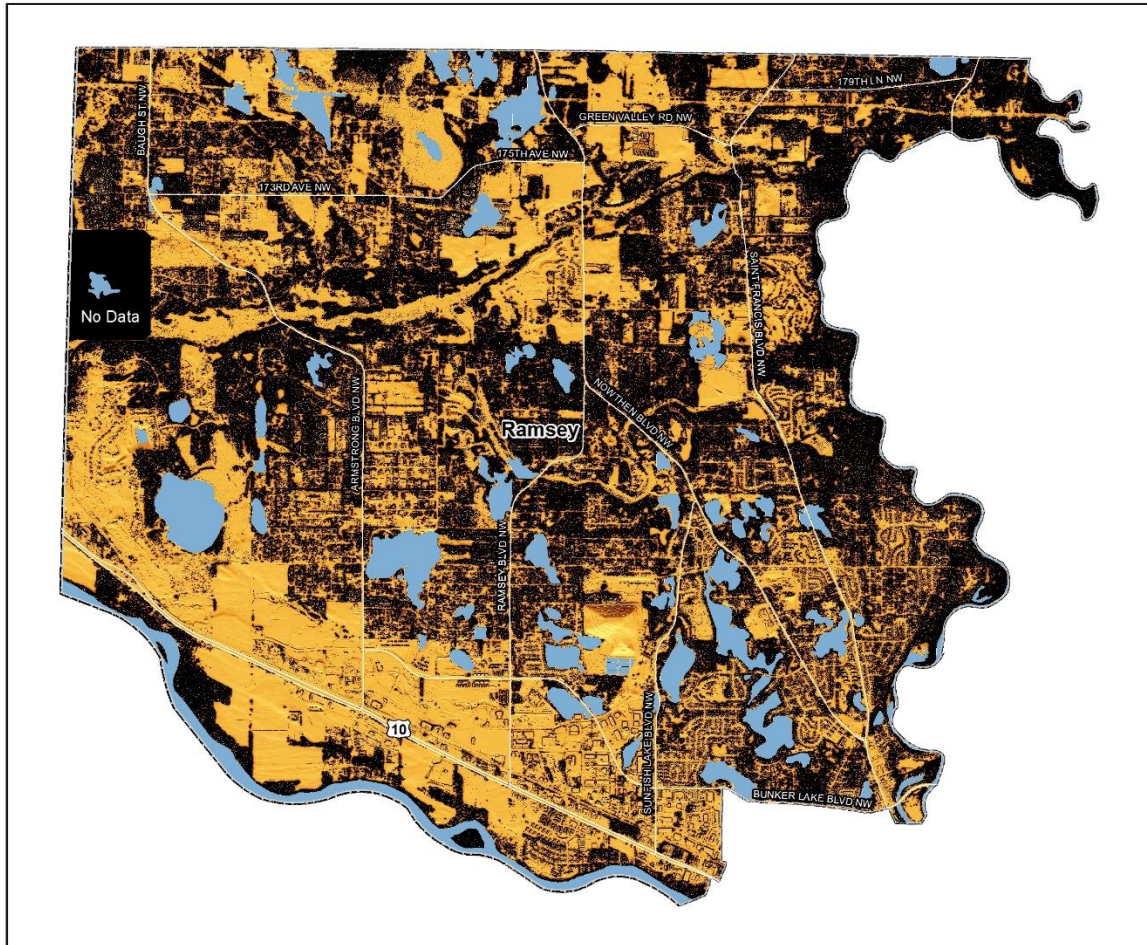


## Access to Solar

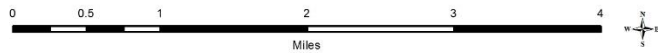
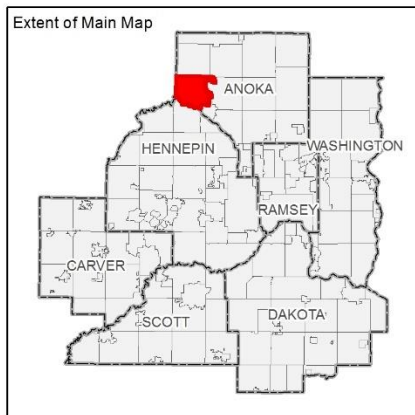
In the mid-2010s, Ramsey amended its Zoning Code to permit both ground mounted and building mounted solar arrays as an accessory use in any zoning district. This created the possibility for both the residential and commercial/industrial sectors to lawfully install solar energy systems if they so desired. 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)

High : 1266356  
Low : 900001

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

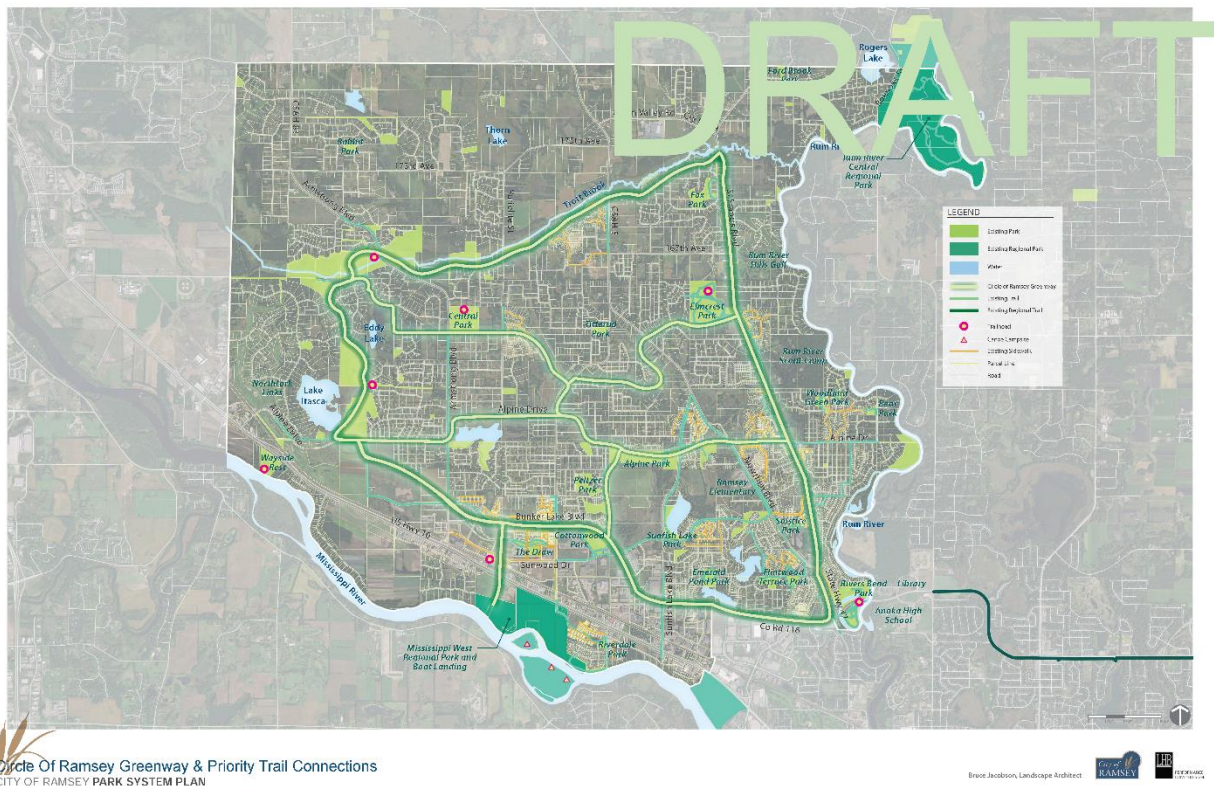
Source: University of Minnesota U-Spatial Statewide Solar Raster.

## 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 Schmitt, Ed M. Green, and Robert Colebrook.

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

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This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Direct requests to customers@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

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Promote pollinator friendly landscape practices	Immediate	Community Development	

#### Initiative #1.2: Maintain and enhance the community forest

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Develop a boulevard tree program	Long Term	Community Development	

#### Initiative #1.3: Reduce erosion along shorelines

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
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

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
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

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
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

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Complete the Priority Greenway Plan	Immediate	Parks and Recreation	

### Imperative #3: A Connected Community

#### Initiative #3.1: Improve connections to significant ecological resources

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
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

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

#### Initiative #4.2: Improve awareness for solid waste reduction

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

DRAFT

## 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.

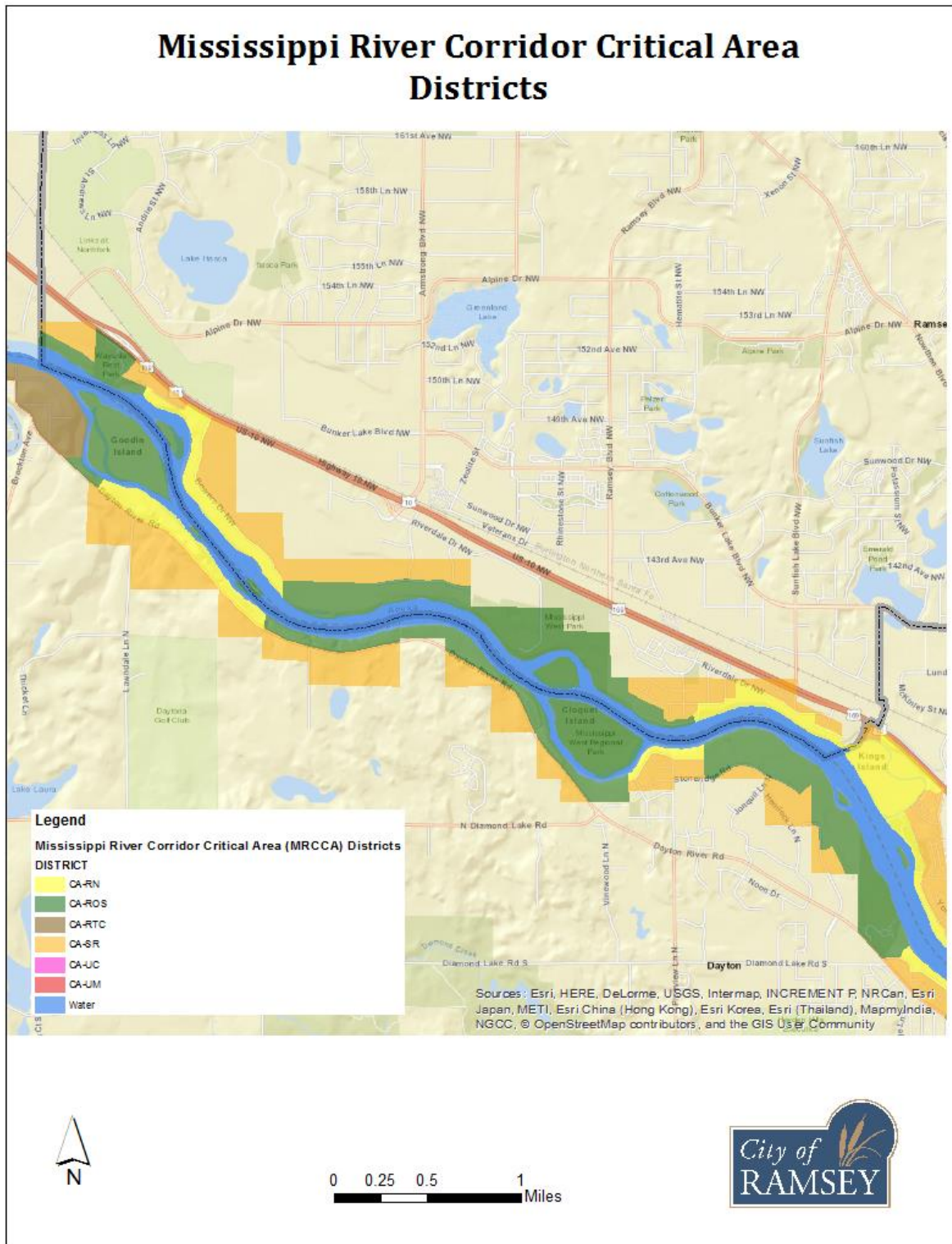
The rural open space district must be managed to sustain and restore the rural and natural character of the corridor and to protect and enhance habitat, parks and open space, public river corridor views, and scenic, natural, and historic areas.

### 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

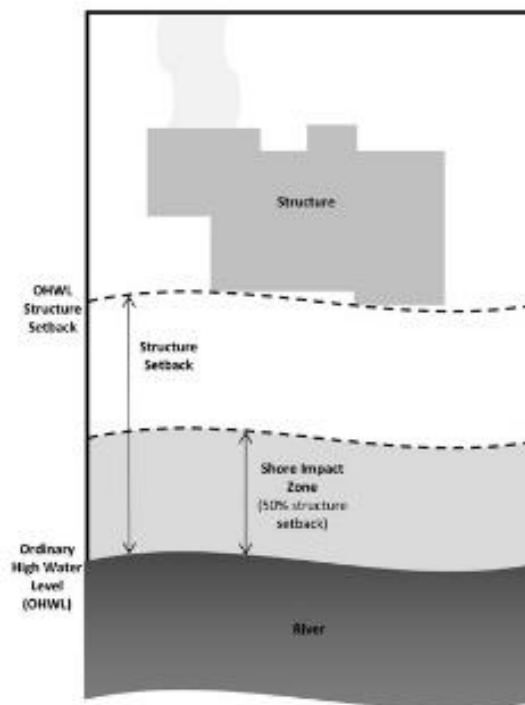
"Primary conservation areas" means key resources and features, including shore impact zones, bluff impact zones, floodplains, wetlands, gorges, areas of confluence with tributaries, natural drainage routes, unstable soils and bedrock, native plant communities, cultural and historic properties, significant 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

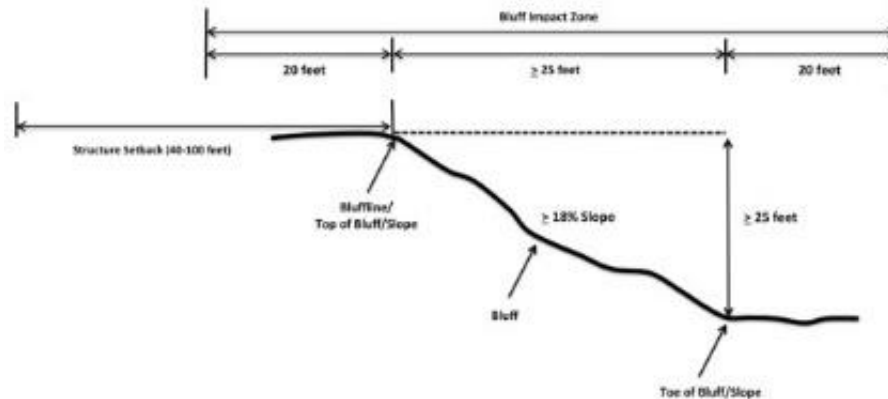
There are no confluences with key tributaries within Ramsey.

## 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

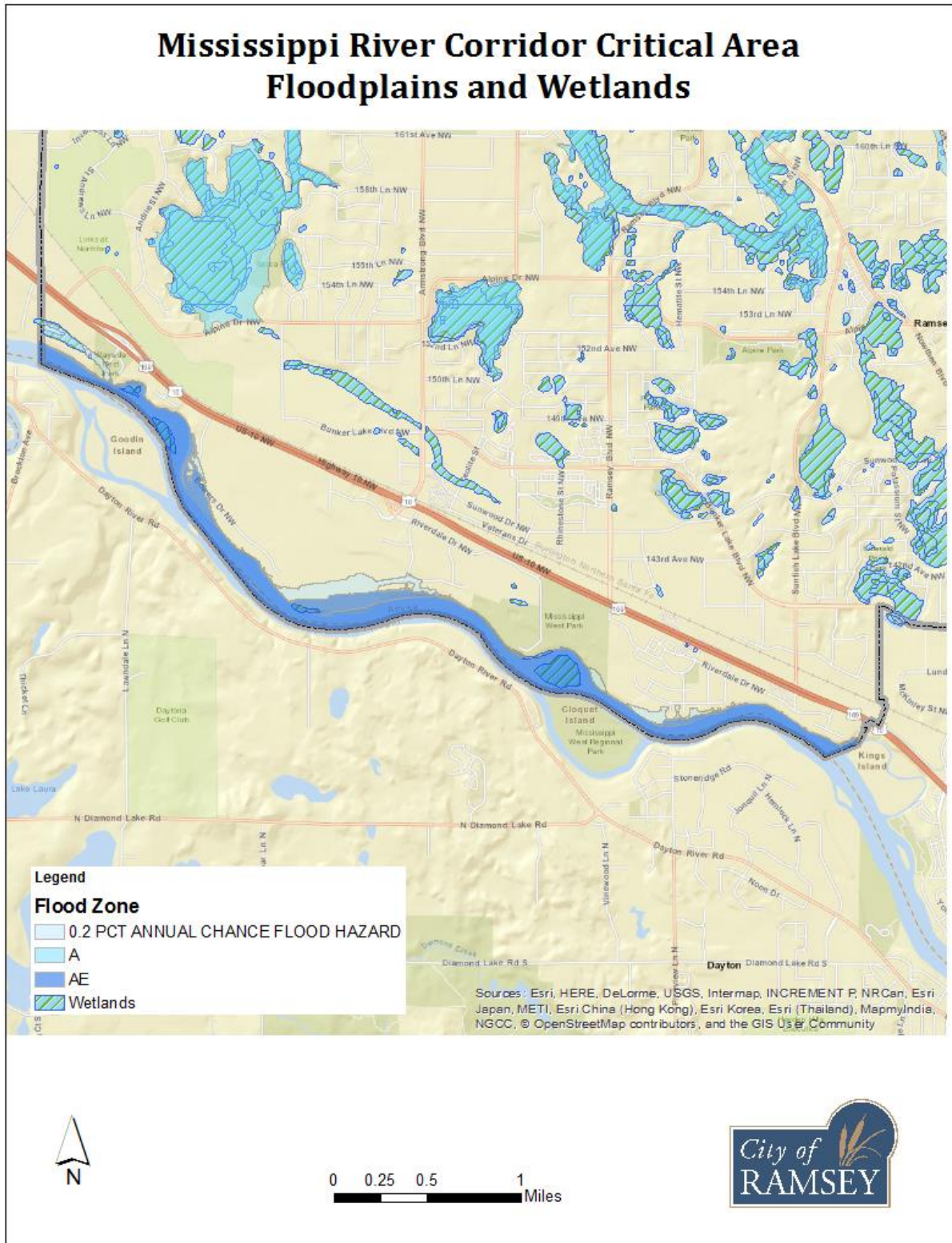


Figure 4: Confluence with Key Tributaries

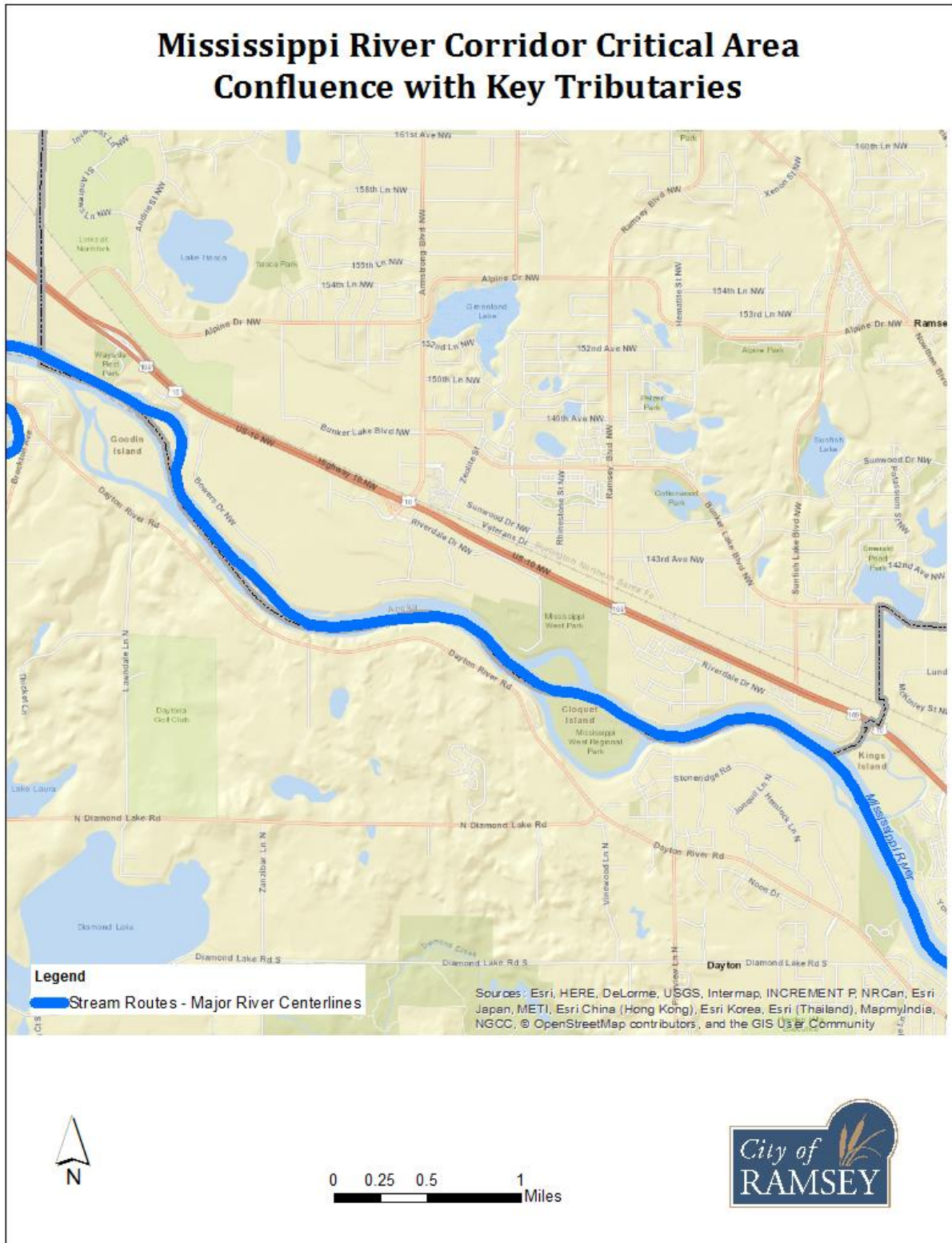
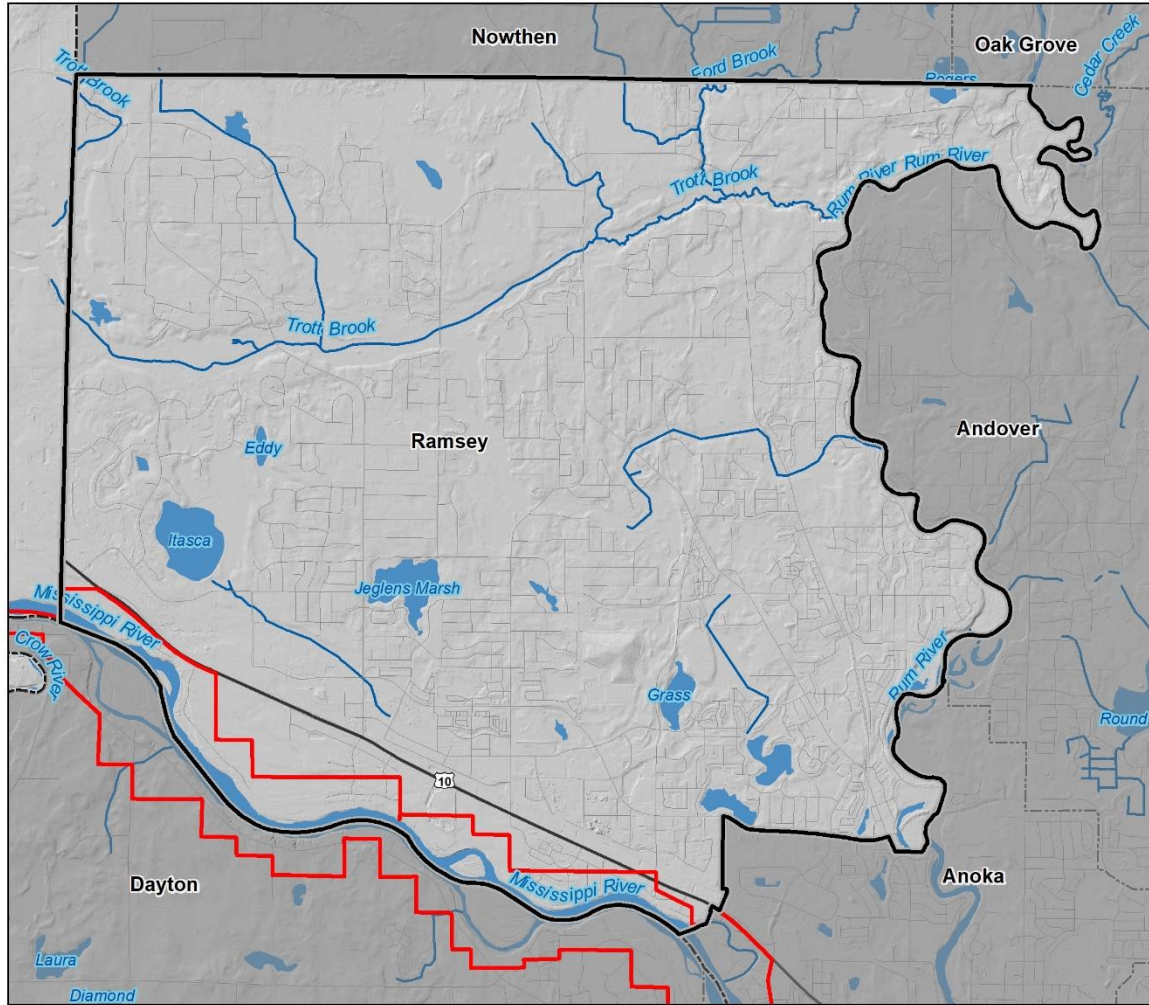


Figure 5: Natural Drainage Areas

### 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

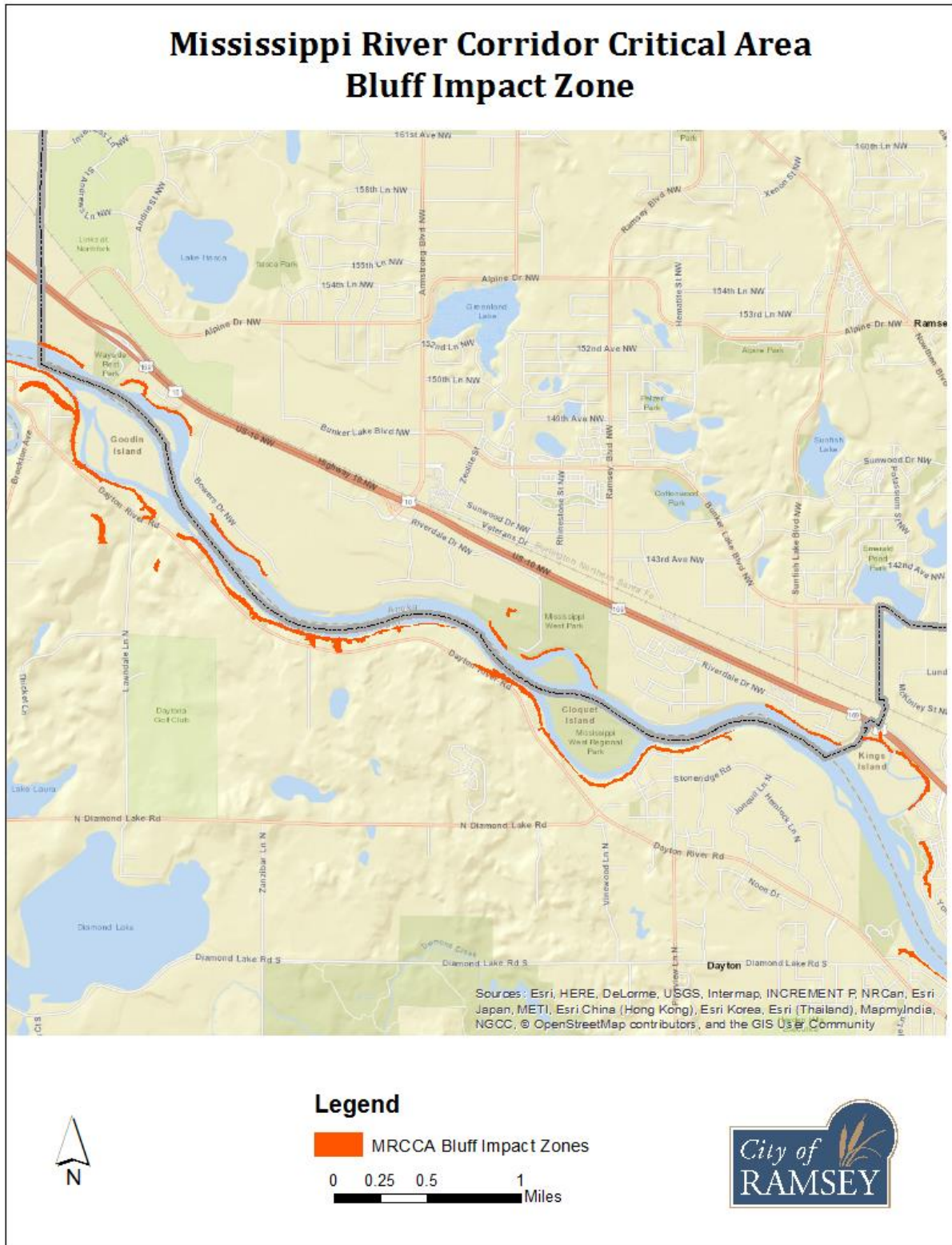
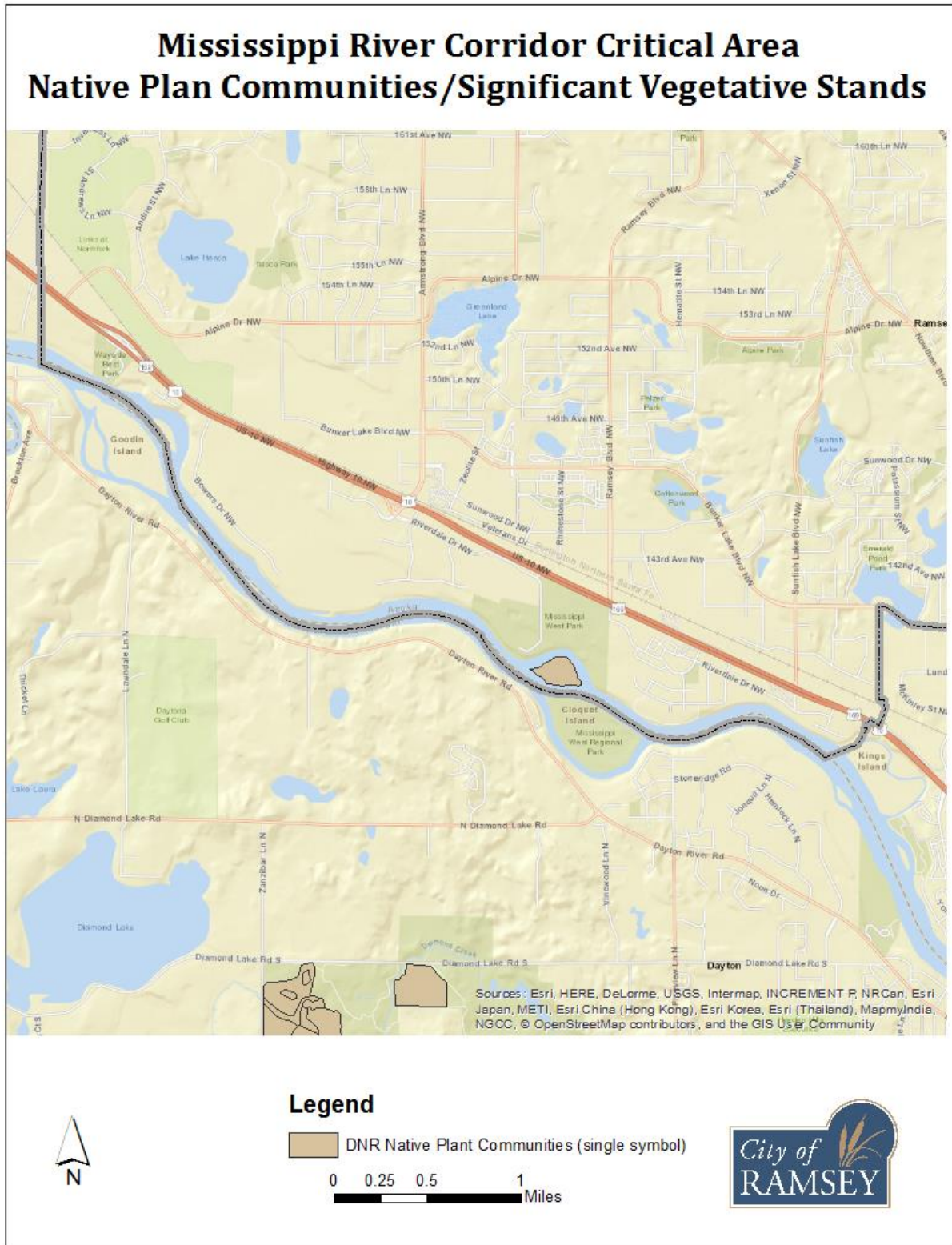


Figure 7: Native Plan Communities & Significant Existing Vegetative Stands



## 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

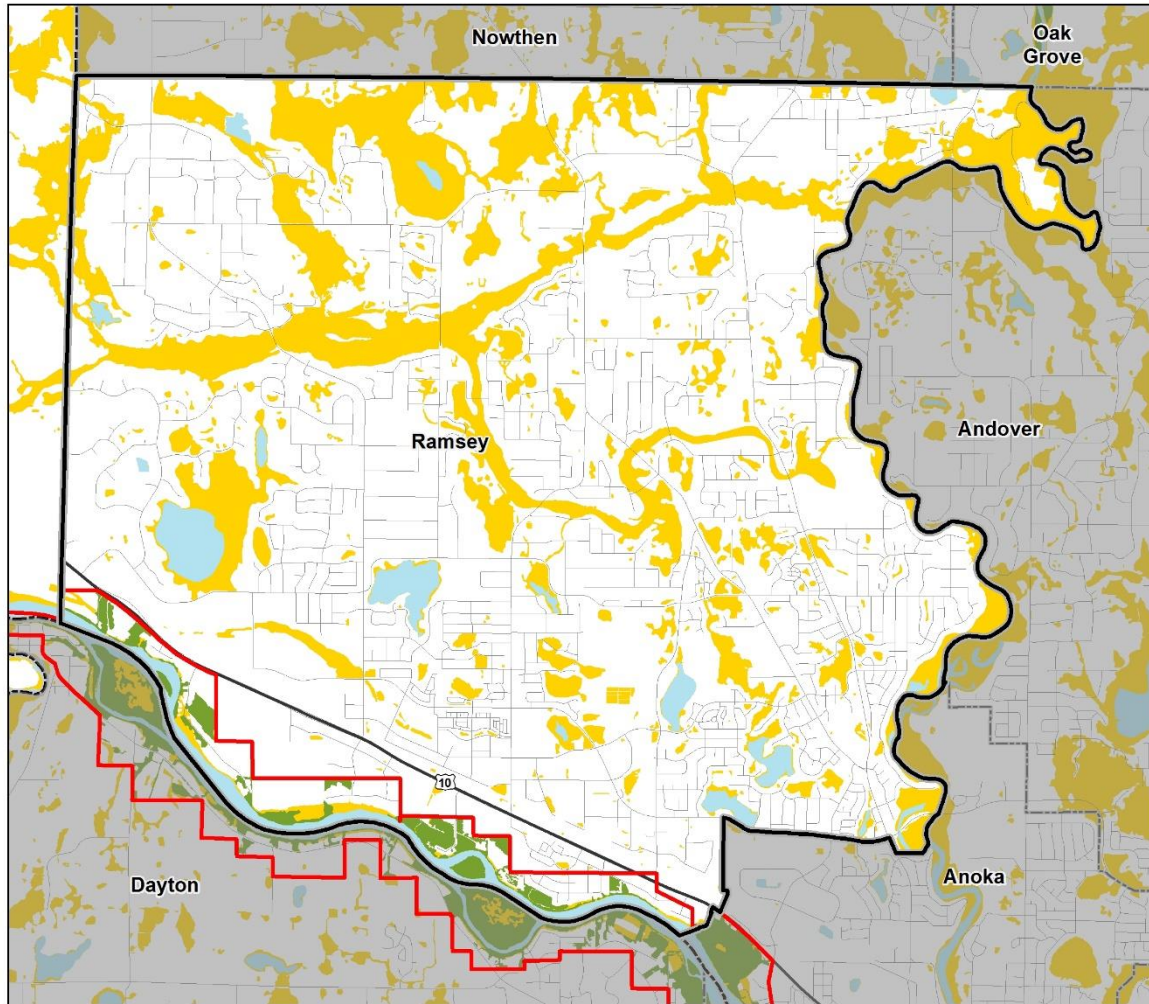


## Priorities for Restoration

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.

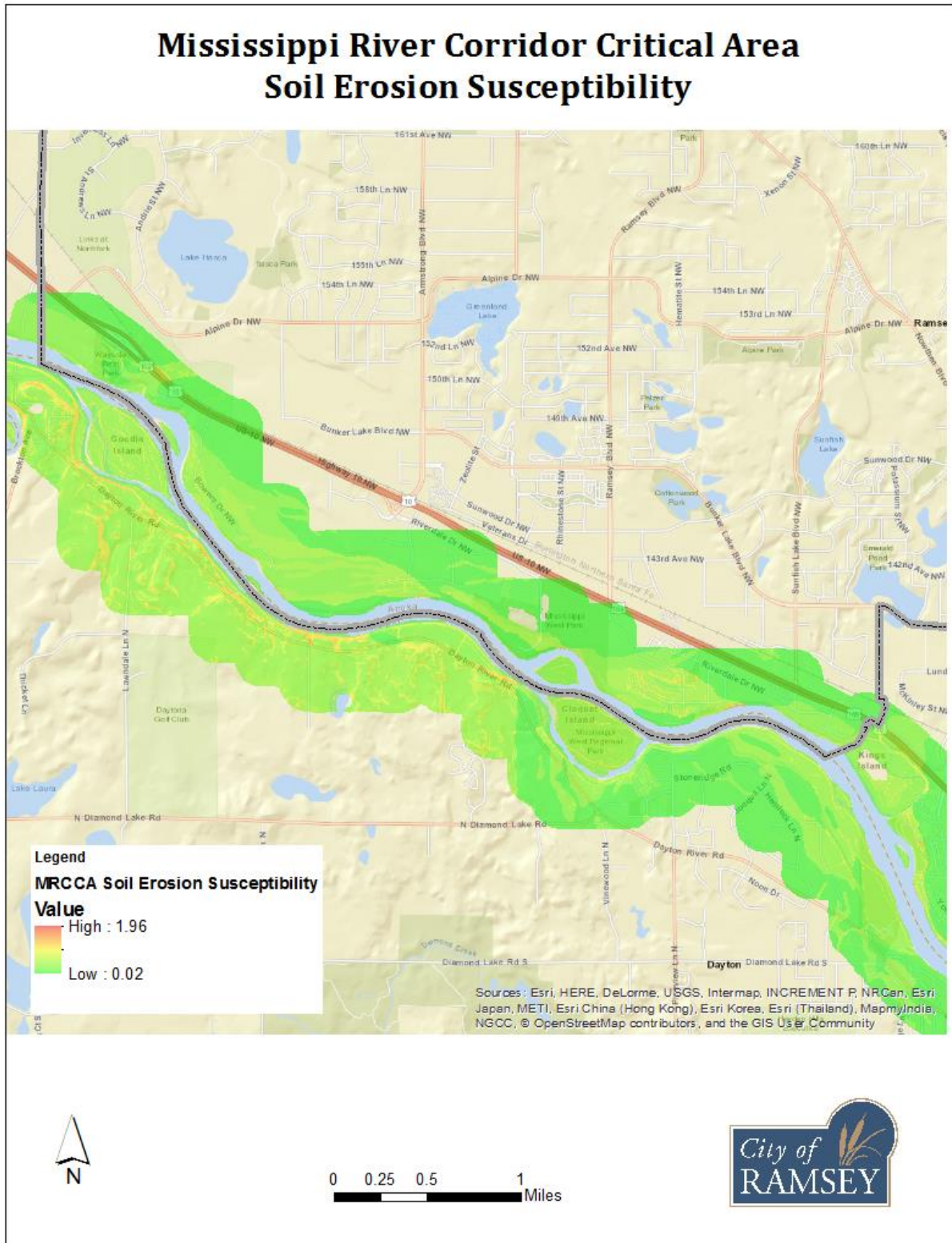
Figure 8: Vegetation Restoration Priorities

### 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



# Surface Water Uses

## Water-Oriented Uses

# Open Space & Recreational Facilities

## Existing Recreation Facilities

The Mississippi River Trail and Riverdale Park are currently located within the Corridor.

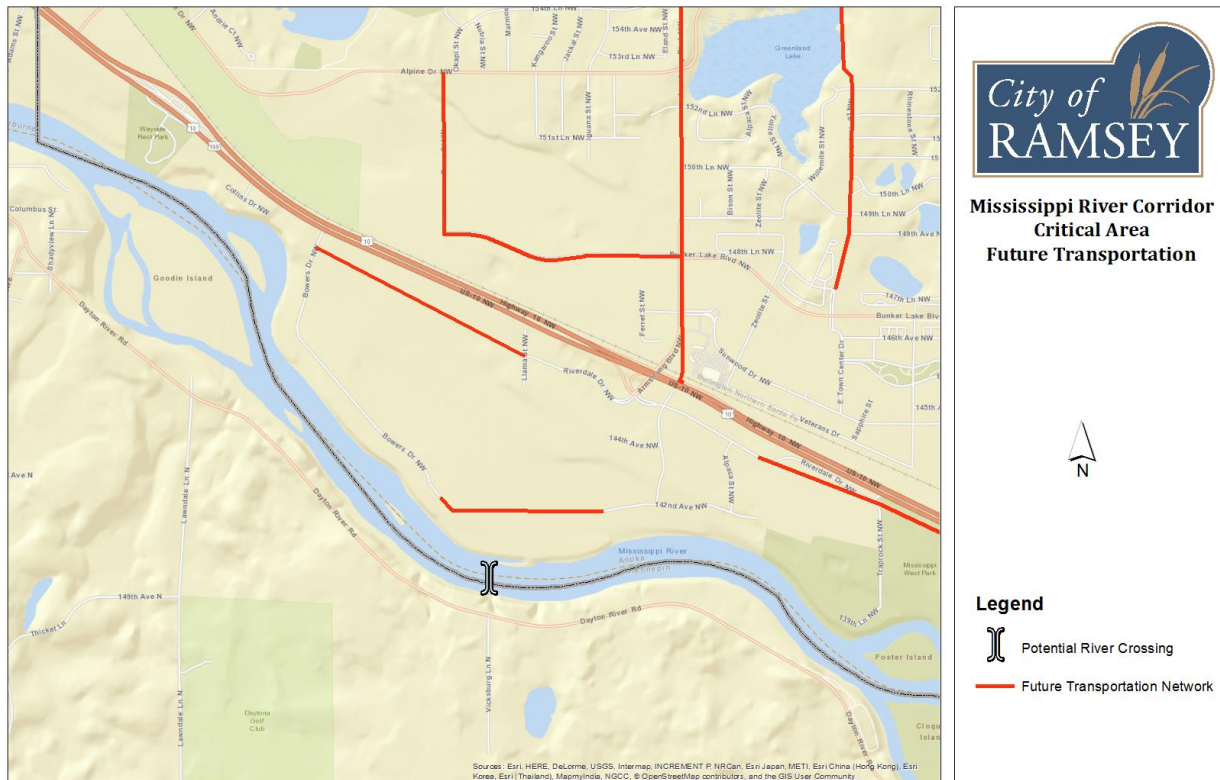
## Future Recreation Facilities

The future Mississippi West Regional Park is located within the Corridor. In addition, the future alignment of Central Anoka County Regional Trail connect to the Corridor. A future component of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail is a grade-separated pedestrian crossing over the BNSF/Northstar Commuter Rail Corridor and U.S. Highway 10, known as the Mississippi Skyway.

# Transportation & Public Utilities

An existing Connexus Energy Electric Transmission Line current crosses the Mississippi River connecting Ramsey and Dayton. Ramsey continues to plan for a future River Crossing between Ramsey and Dayton.

Figure 10: Mississippi River Bridge/Crossing



## 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.

#### Natural Resources Planning

Ramsey undertook two (2) comprehensive inventories in the mid-2000s; a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and a Wetland Inventory. Both of these data sets are referenced any time a new development is proposed. These data sets help inform Ramsey if there are significant and/or high value natural resources within a development site that may warrant greater protections. While both provide valuable insight, Ramsey acknowledges that both require periodic updates to ensure that the data is accurate and relevant. There has

been no specific timeframe identified for updates to either, but for this data to remain useful, they should be revisited no less than every ten (10) to fifteen (15) years. This may be useful as Ramsey continues to consider partnering with other agencies, especially as it relates to shoreline stabilization efforts.

## 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

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
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

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
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

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
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

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
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

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Resources</b>
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
<b>Ordinance/City Code Updates</b>	
Amend MRCCA Overlay District (City Code)	2019
Amend Zoning Map	2019
<b>Ordinance/City Code Administration</b>	
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
<b>Education and Outreach</b>	
Create Informational Packet	2019
Develop a Communications Plan	2019
Create New MRCCA Webpage	2019
Create Signage Package for Public Places	2020
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	
Update Capital Improvement Program to Reflect MRCCA Plan Update	2019
Include Transportation Corridors Within MRCCA in CIP	2019
<b>Land Acquisition</b>	
Create Land Acquisition Plan for Select Parcels	2020
<b>Additional Initiatives</b>	
Adopt Surface Water Regulations	2019
Conduct Additional Research	??
Coordinate Jurisdictional Planning Efforts	??
Conduct Master Planning Efforts	??
Conduct Corridor Planning Efforts	??