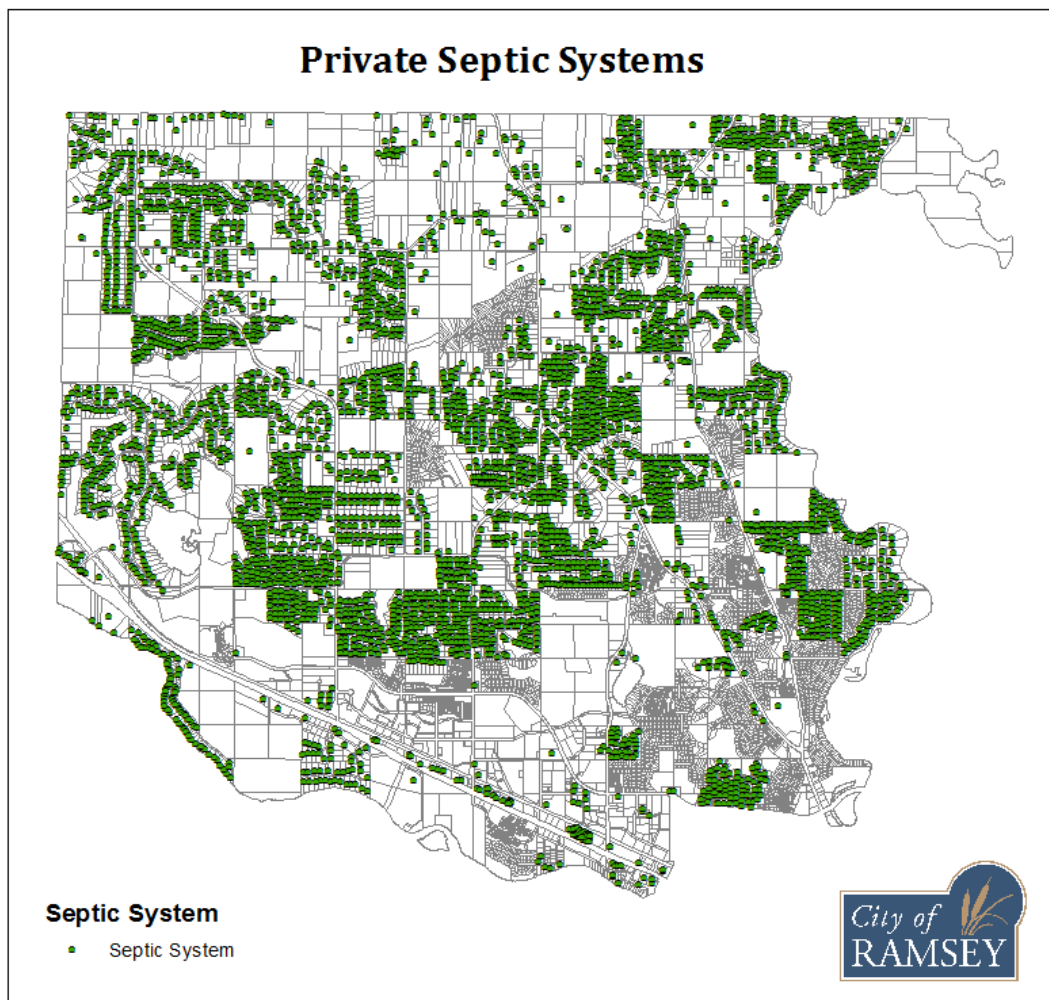


Community and Subsurface Treatment Systems

Community and Subsurface Treatment System Management Program

Ramsey maintains a database of approximately 4,100 private subsurface septic systems. A majority of these are for single-family homes. There is one group septic system for a six (6) unit townhome development owned and operated by a private Home Owners Association (HOA). In 2016, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) reported a total of approximately 541,000 septic systems in Minnesota. Anoka County has an estimated 28,000 systems, the second highest number of septic systems per County in the State and the highest number of systems of any County in Metropolitan Area. When properly maintained, these systems are an adequate means of treating wastewater. However, given the number of private septic systems in the community, Ramsey must dedicate resources to ensure that these systems are being properly maintained in order to protect groundwater quality, prevent public health threats, and avoid public nuisances.



Ramsey is a Home Rule Charter City. Ramsey City Charter states the following.

Connection Policy. The city may not compel any property owner with a functional private sewer and water system to connect to city sewer and/or water.

Assessment policy. The city may not levy an assessment for any component of any project which includes sewer and/or water improvements against a property whose owner elects to remain on a functional private sewer and/or water system.

Request for urban services. Property owners who remain on private sewer and water systems after urban services become available may request connection to urban services at any time. Upon connection to urban services an assessment may be levied provided it is consistent with the original assessment.

Ramsey tracks septic systems with a permit management system known as Permit Information Management System (PIMS). PIMS is a product of the Local Government Information System (LOGIS) consortium of local communities.

Public Treatment Systems

Ramsey has no public treatments in our community. Ramsey does have three (3) cluster systems serving four (4) units each, resulting in twelve (12) units being served by a clustered (shared) system.

Subsurface Treatment Systems

Ramsey has an estimated 4,170 subsurface treatment systems.

Public Education

Ramsey has set a goal to improve public education on proper maintenance of septic systems. Ramsey's primary clearinghouse for education materials is www.cityoframsey.com/septic. The website serves as a clearinghouse leveraging a number of existing resources including, but not limited to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Know the Flow (Anoka County).

Ramsey actively participates in Septic Smart Week each September.

Additionally, during the 2017-2018 Academic Year, Ramsey collaborated with the University of Minnesota through its Resilient Communities Project (RCP). One of the projects this partnership worked on was septic education. The partnership developed printed materials and website content. Ramsey is working on incorporating these resources within our new website rolling out in 2018.

Required Pumping and/or Maintenance Reminders

Each year Ramsey sends reminders to septic system owners that are due for septic pumping and/or maintenance at an interval not to exceed once every three (3) years as required by the State of Minnesota.

Financial Assistance for Public Health or Safety Concerns

In instances where a septic system has failed to the point it poses a threat to public health or safety, Property Owners may request the City replace a private septic system and assess the costs of the replacement to the benefitted property. The Property Owner must enter into an Assessment Agreement

and the costs of replacement will be levied against the Property as a Special Assessment. The Property Owner must submit proof that they have exhausted all other financial options to replace the system.

Anoka County also has potential dollars and/or loans available for septic replacement needs.

Administrative Enforcement of Septic Rule Violations

Ramsey has established an administrative process to enforce violations of various sections of our City Code, including our Septic Code. When the City becomes aware of a septic system in violation of the Septic Code, we track the violation through our code enforcement management system. Property Owners are provided two (2) notices of violation with instruction on how to comply with Septic Code. The City is able to issue Administrative Fines in addition to the Notices of Violation.

Civil Prosecution

In the rare occasion where Ramsey's Administrative Enforcement is unsuccessful in achieving compliance, the City will file civil prosecution charges in order to obtain an injunction from District Court to remedy the situation.

Criminal Prosecution

In extremely rare occasions, especially in events of threats to public health or safety, Ramsey may choose to seek criminal charges to remedy the situation.

Future Community Treatment Systems

In certain instances, Ramsey may consider allowing private, community septic systems.

Land Uses and Physical Conditions

Ramsey will generally only allow a private, community system outside of the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA). In certain circumstances where an agreement for future connection is reached, Ramsey may allow private, community septic systems within the MUSA boundary.

Rural Residential

Private septic systems are generally reserved for rural residential lots of at least one (1) acre in size. Properties shall ensure adequate space for a primary and secondary drainfield area.

Shoreland Areas

Ramsey is supportive of private, community septic systems in areas located within our Shoreland Overlay District, Rum River Wild and Scenic Overlay District, and Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA). These are environmentally sensitive areas, and the public benefits from limiting the number of potential individual source points of pollution that could pose a threat to water quality.

Urban Residential

For areas in the future urban service area but future municipal utilities are not expected within the current planning period (20 years), Owners may cluster lots and serve through a private, community septic system. The Owners must enter into a Future Connection Agreement providing for future connections when municipal services are available.

Administrative Procedures

Ramsey will require that a legal entity be established prior to the construction of any private, community septic systems. Although Ramsey will have no enforcement responsibilities of the entity, Ramsey will require a review of the articles of incorporation by the City Attorney. The participating properties shall enter into a Maintenance Agreement with the City and shall agree to allow the City to assess the costs of future repair in the event of failure to repair a non-compliant system.

Compliance with Applicable Regulations

Owners and Installers of private, community septic systems shall design and construct consistent with Minnesota Rules, Anoka County Ordinances, and Ramsey City Code.

Ramsey Administration

Ramsey shall administer applicable Minnesota Rules consistent with other private septic systems. Ramsey shall require the issuance of a permit prior to installation and shall ensure ongoing compliance.