

City of Ramsey 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

Economic Development 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.

Ramsey's Long Range Imperatives

Four key themes have emerged as part of this Comprehensive Plan Update that transcend each section our Vision. Each Initiative, Tactic, and Policy should relate to one of these four Imperatives.

1. Rural Character and Urban Growth Balance
2. An Active Community (Parks, Recreation, and Open Space)
3. A Connected Community (Transportation)
4. A Positive Learning Environment



Economic Development Initiatives

1. Maintain and Expand our Employment Base
2. Increase and Construct Retail Options for Residents and Businesses
3. Improve Highway 10
4. Complete Built-Out of The COR according to the approved Development Plan.

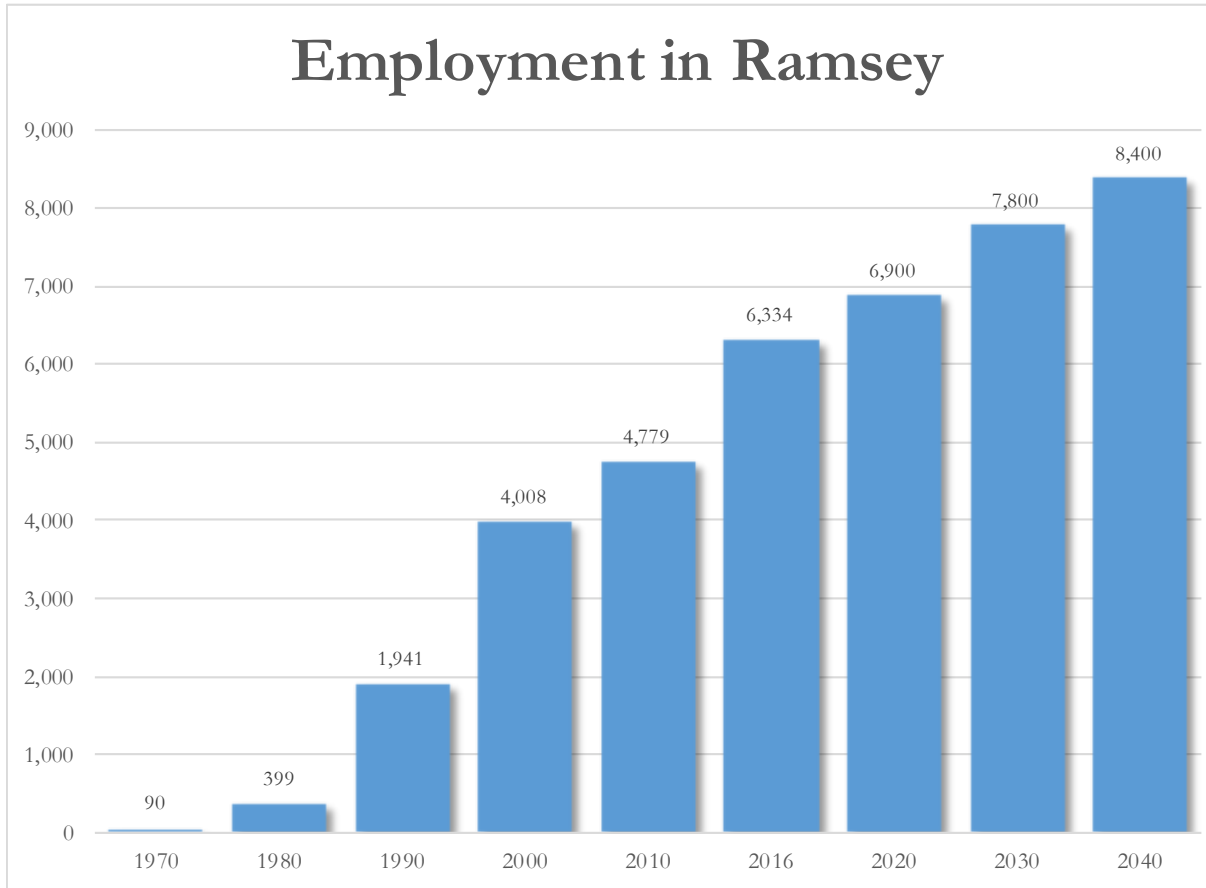
5. Improve the Image of Ramsey and its Neighborhoods, Business Districts, and Key Corridors
6. Create a Robust Offering of Recreational Opportunities that benefit Businesses.



Economic Development Outlook

Ramsey has an estimated employment base of 6,334 employees working in Ramsey and approximately 634 acres of industrial land.

Figure 1: Employment Forecasts



Source: U.S. Census Decennial Survey, U.S. Census American Communities Survey, Metropolitan Council Forecasts



Industrial Development

Existing Industrial Conditions

Ramsey/Anoka Industrial Park.

Ramsey's existing industrial park area borders another large industrial park in the City of Anoka. Highlights of the combined industrial park area are below.

- Approximately 1,000 acres
- Approximately 15,000 jobs
- Hundreds of businesses, with a high concentration of manufacturing

Future Industrial Opportunities

Employment growth is expected to continue to grow through 2040. The current estimated employment within Ramsey is 6,334 jobs. The number is expected to grow 8,100 jobs in the year 2040.

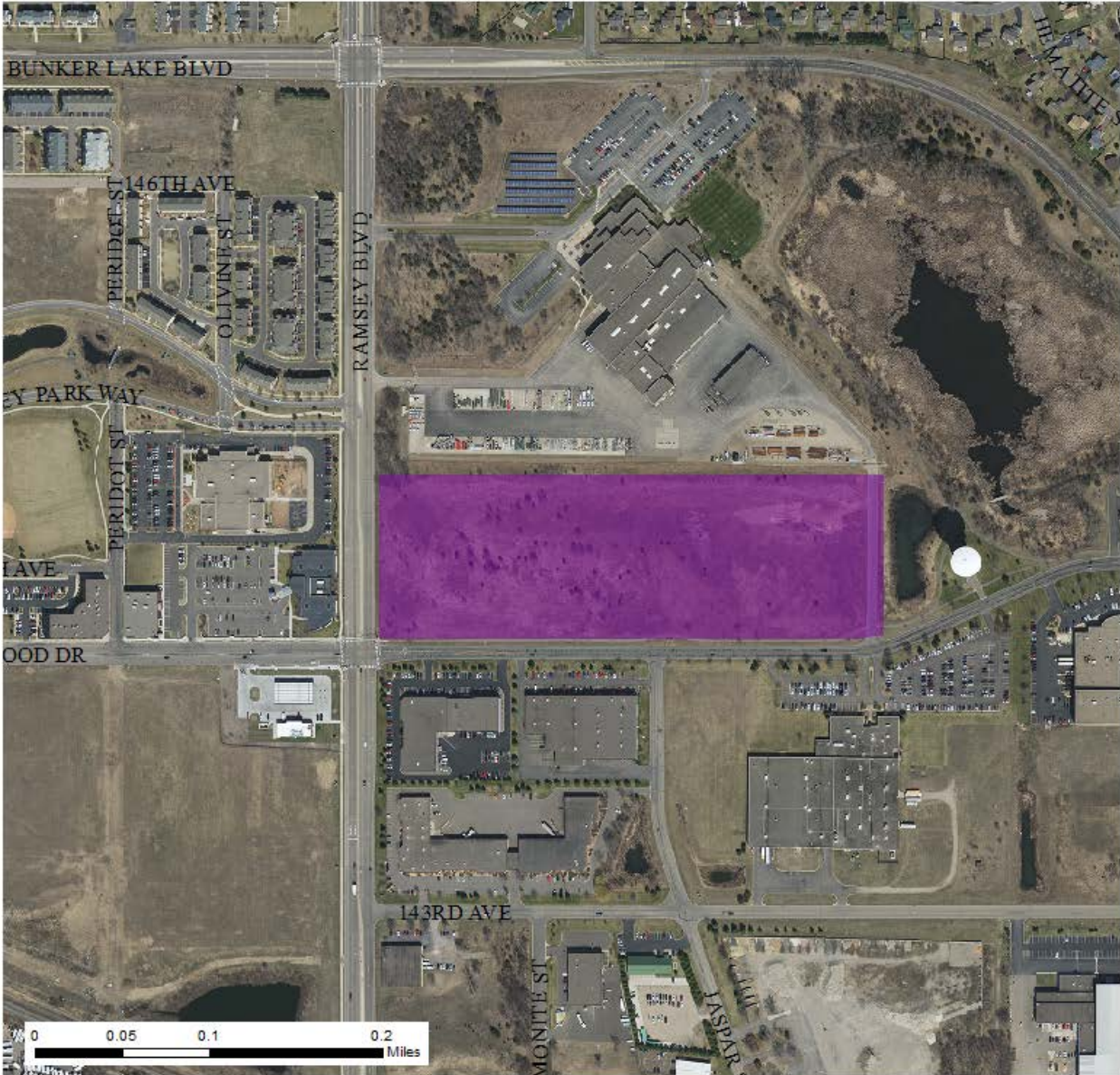
Ramsey has been fortunate to be extremely successful in both greenfield development and redevelopment. Ramsey's supply of industrial land guided by the 2030 Comprehensive Plan is extremely low. In response, Ramsey amended its 2030 Comprehensive Plan to guide an additional 115 acres for future employment growth.

Highlights of existing employment growth opportunities include, but are not limited to the following.

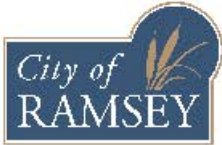
- AEC Energy Park (15 Acres)
- Bunker Lake Industrial Park (140 Acres)
- Highway 10 Business Park (150 Acres)
- Jaspar Industrial Park (9 Acres)



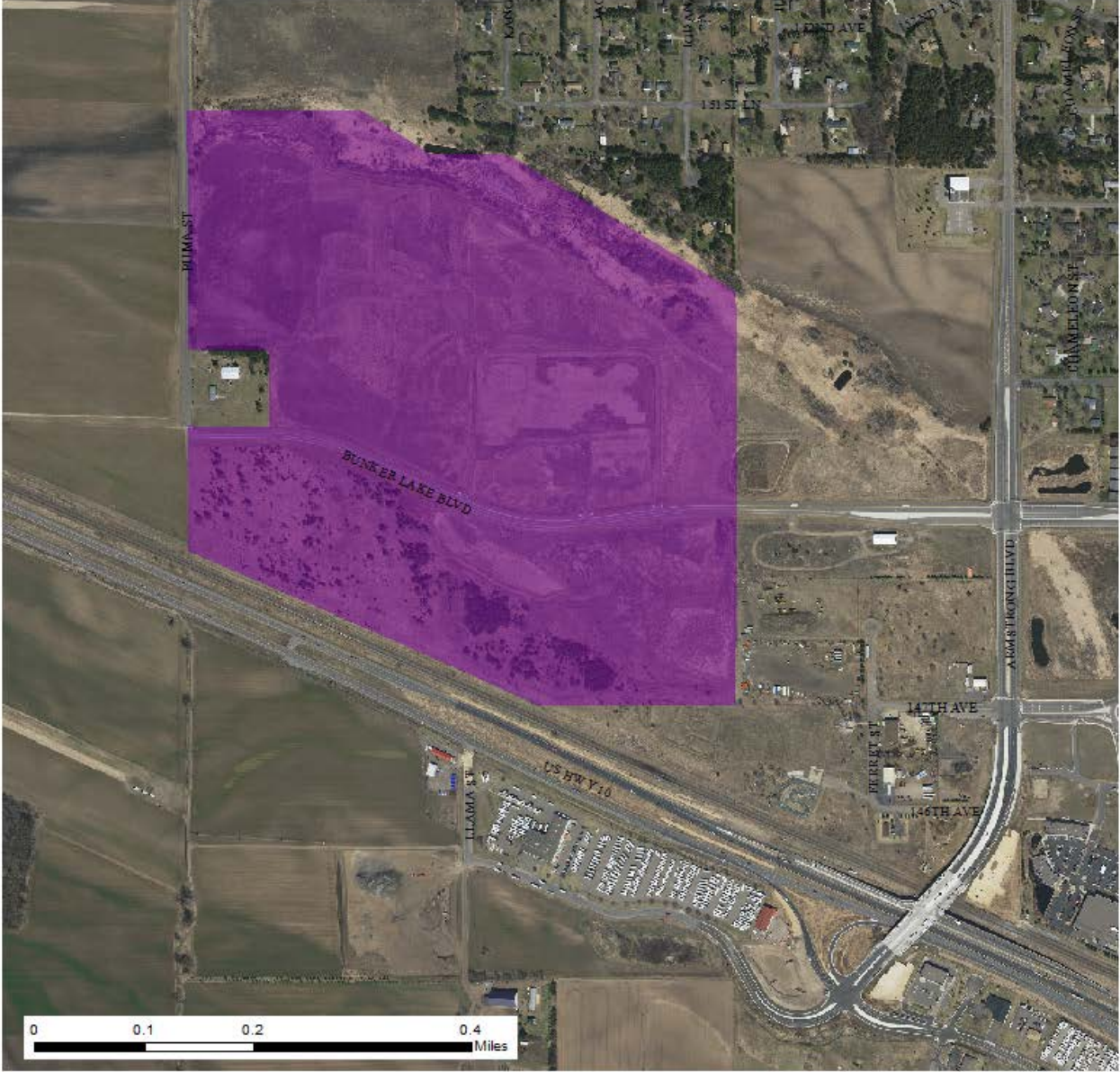
Future Industrial Opportunities



Opportunity
AEC Energy Park



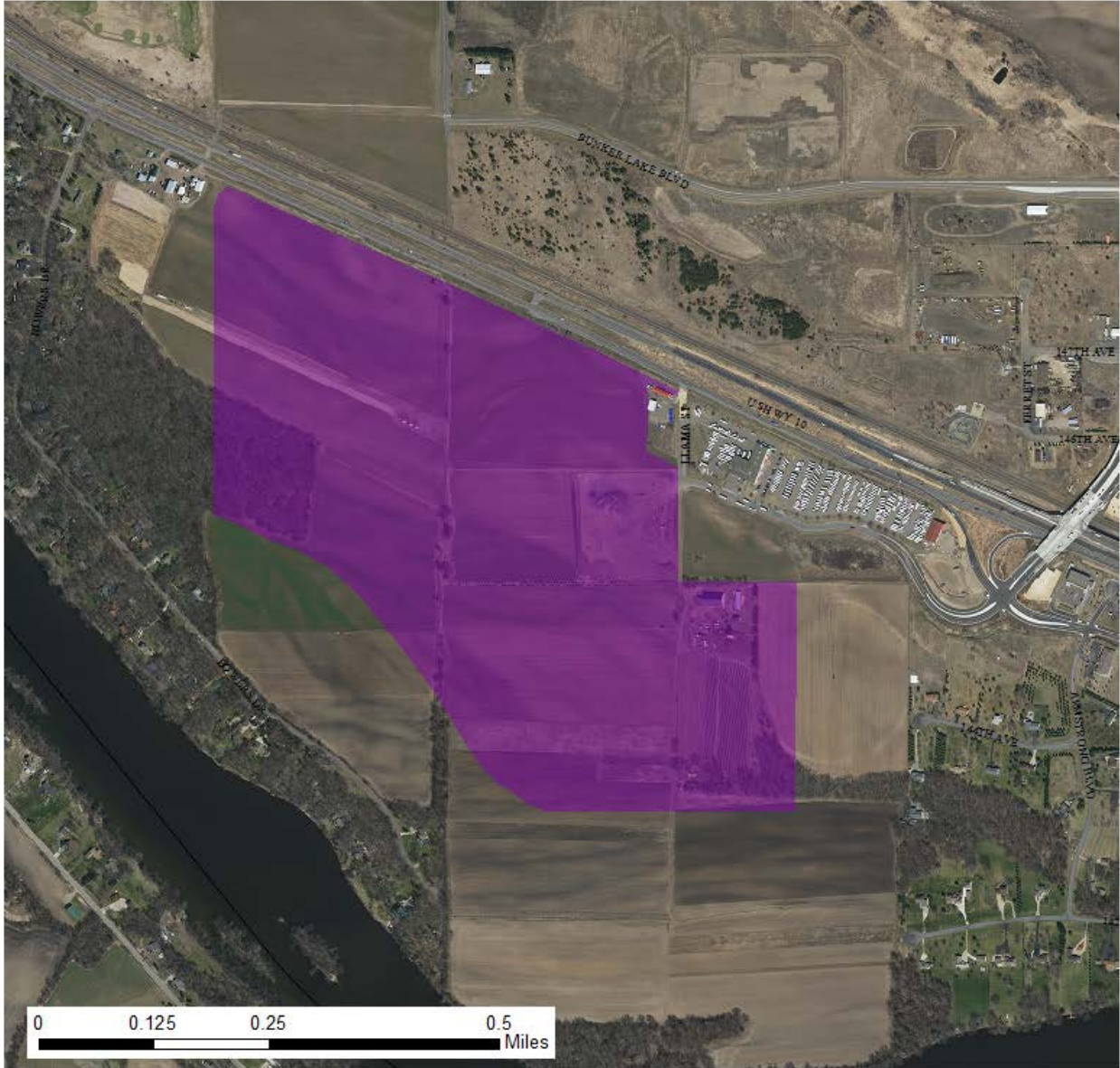
Future Industrial Opportunities




Opportunity
Bunker Lake Industrial Park



Future Industrial Opportunities

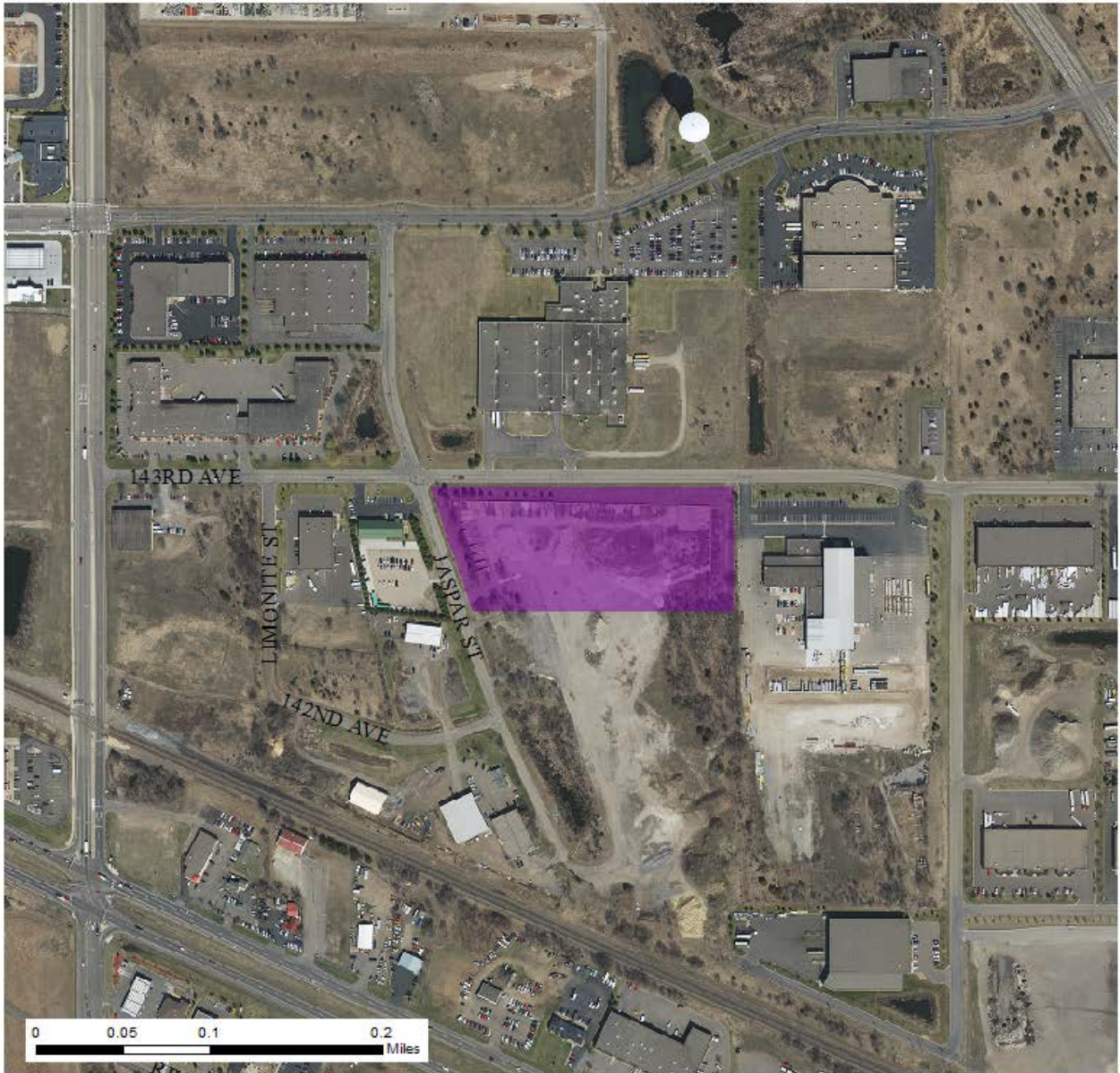


Opportunity

 Highway 10 Industrial Park



Future Industrial Opportunities



Opportunity
Jaspar Industrial Park



Retail Development

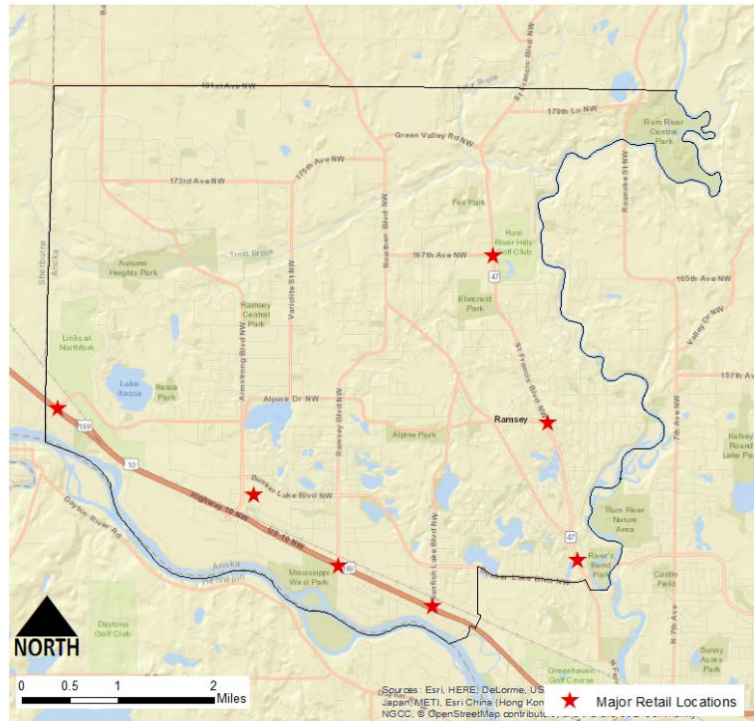
Existing Retail

Primary retail nodes are indicated on the map below. The City has approximately 125 acres of developable land available for development of new retail opportunities.

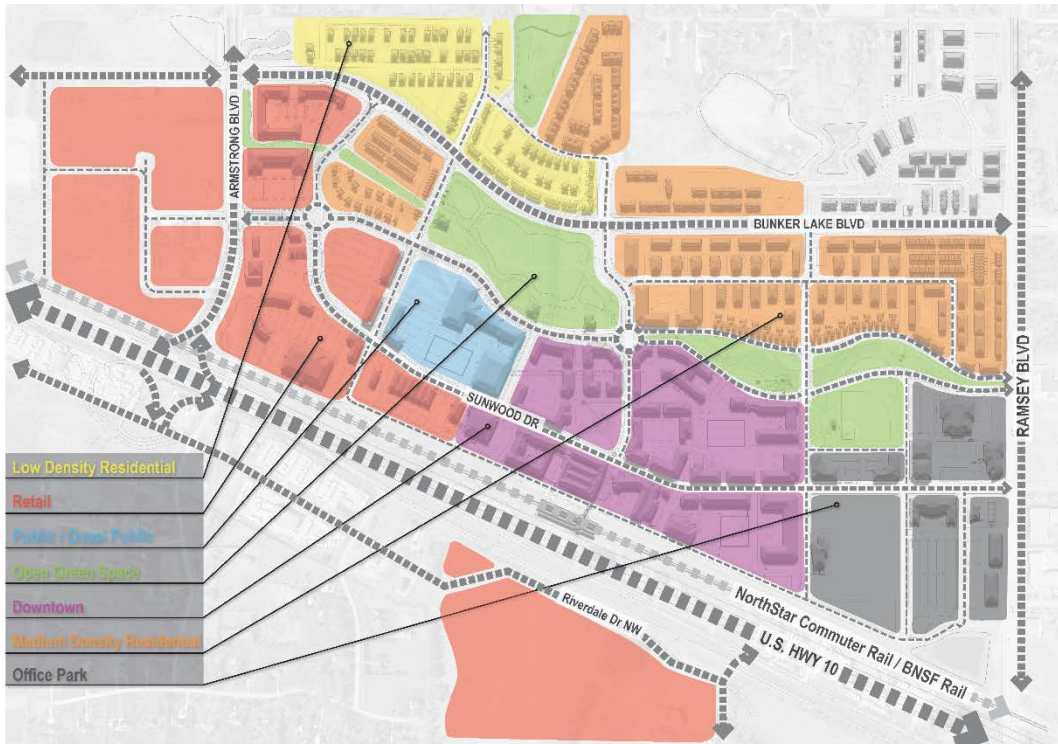
Market Conditions in Ramsey

Ramsey's Market Area for retail growth has a positive outlook, but is constrained by several factors. While the Mississippi River and Rum River are some of Ramsey's primary assets, they do constrain Ramsey's Retail Market Area, as these physical barriers restrict access for many in close proximity.

Retail Opportunities

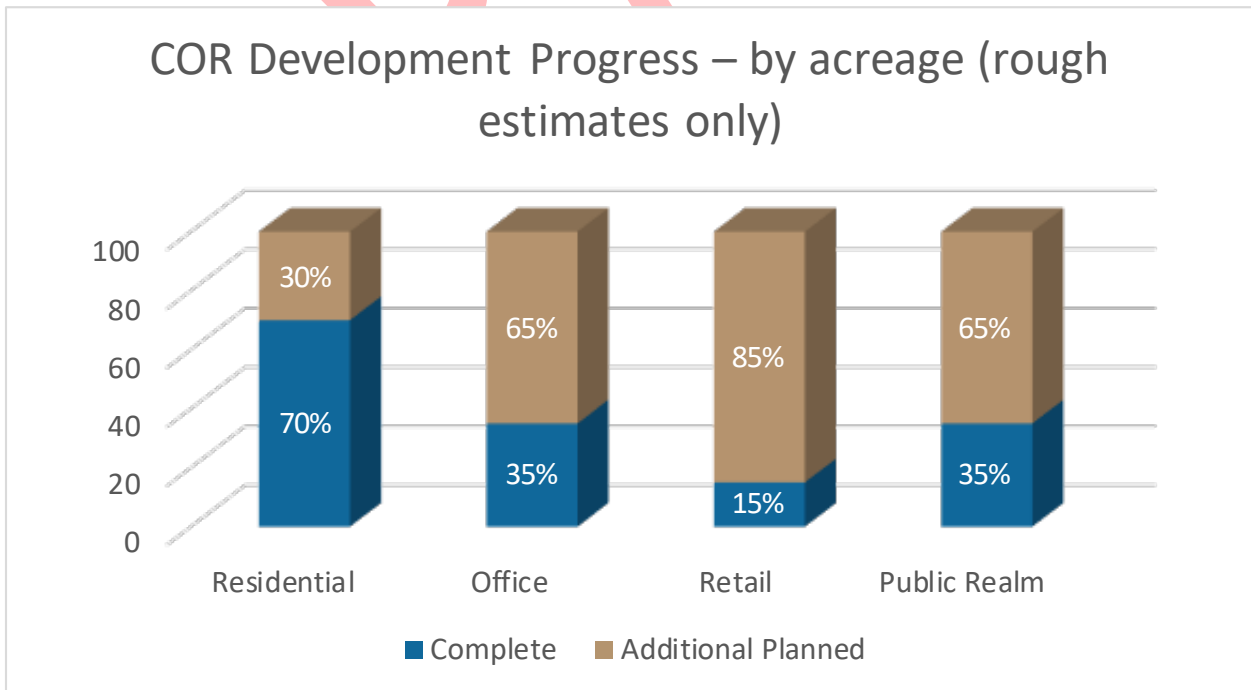


Future Retail Opportunities
The COR



The COR Land Use

Table 1: Planned Growth in The COR



Rum River Hills (167th Avenue/TH 47 Retail Node)

The Rum River Hills Neighborhood is anchored by a small retail node at the intersection of 167th Avenue and Saint Francis Boulevard (T.H. 47). For a number of years, Ramsey has analyzed how to best revitalize this node that has experienced a high rate of vacancy and blight. This node has seen some private reinvestment in recent years. The Rum River Hills Golf Course has also expressed an interest in redeveloping a small portion of their land for residential development.

Rum River Hills Neighborhood Goal

To improve and/or remove blight from the retail node and encourage sustainable market-driven redevelopment that will benefit the entire City of Ramsey.

Rum River Hills Neighborhood Vision

Ramsey's vision for the neighborhood is a mixture of residential and retail uses. Residential users may include single family residential, townhomes, or senior living units as directed by the market. Retail will include a market driven neighborhood commercial node. Redevelopment should include a connection to Elmcrest Park and/or nearby trails where feasible.

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Final Draft Note:

A series of 'Site Profile Maps' will be added here. These 'Site Profile Maps' are similar to the individual site maps in the Industrial section of this Chapter.

- The COR
- South of Highway 10/South of Rail Station
- Highway 10 Corridor
- Bunker Lake Boulevard/TH 47
- Alpine Drive/TH 47
- 167th Avenue/TH 47
- Anoka Border – Highway 10
- Elk River Border – Highway 10

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Economic Development Tools

The City of Ramsey has a number of financial tools available for economic development projects. Below is an overview of the most commonly used economic development tools.

GAP FINANCING:

The City's RLF and the DEED MIF programs are used to fill the financial "gap" of a particular project. A financial gap occurs when private financing and/or owner equity cannot fund an entire project. Commonly, these programs are used to purchase equipment; however, other eligible uses exist. Interest rates and terms are negotiable.

DEED JOB CREATION FUND:

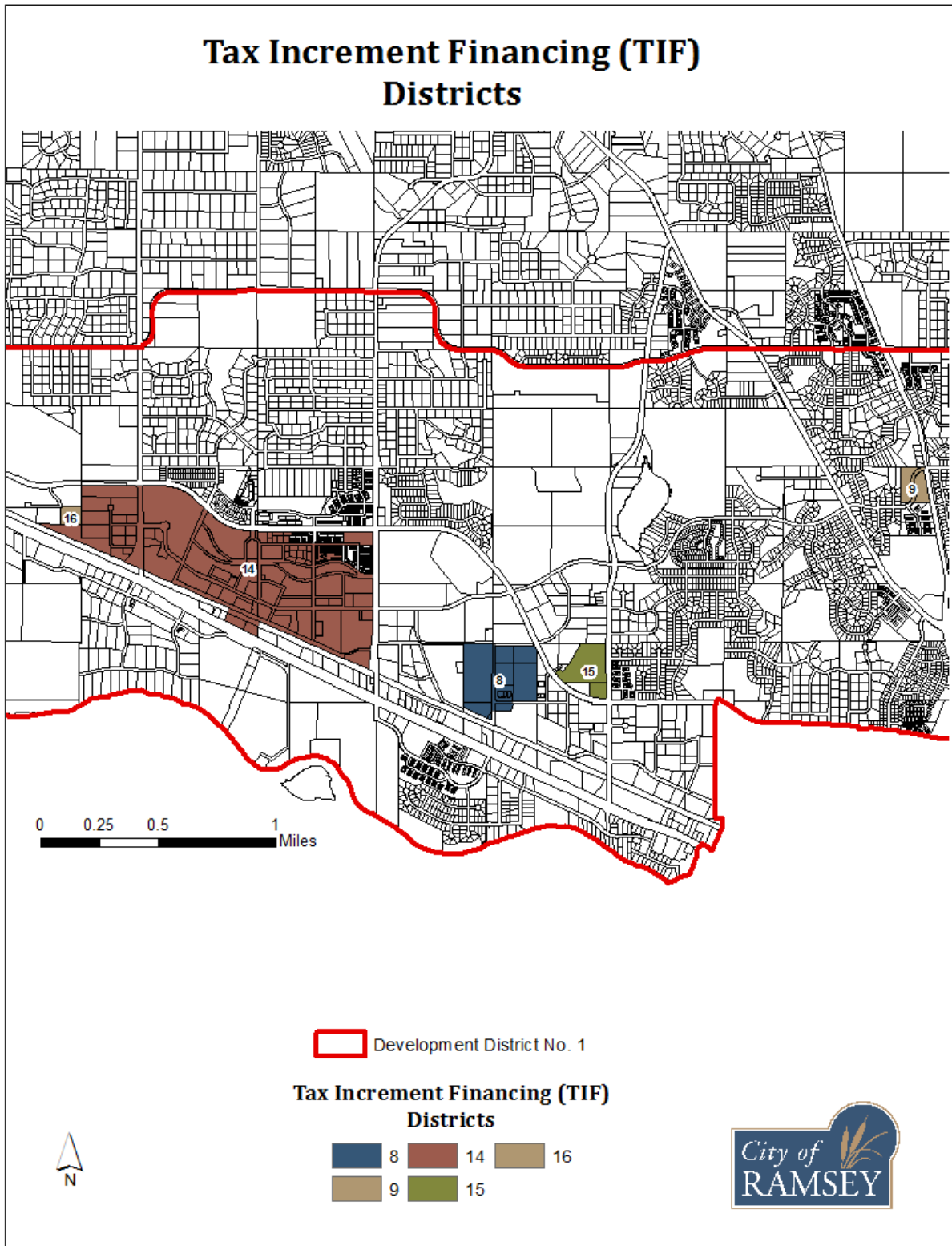
DEED assistance to projects that have capital investment and provide well-paying jobs. Program would allow for a company to receive a 5% rebate on capital expenditures (construction costs, materials etc.) up to \$500,000. In addition, this program allows for up to \$500,000 in job creation rebates based upon jobs created and their salary levels.

PROPERTY TAX PROGRAMS:

Tax abatement and TIF are local tax programs typically used for public infrastructure or land acquisition costs. In general, both programs work by capturing property taxes generated by a particular parcel then dedicating said tax revenue for a specific project cost.

Eligibility for financing tools based on the merit of an individual project, compliance with specific program requirements and in many cases approval from the Ramsey EDA and City Council. The City of Ramsey targets quality projects with high quality job growth. Typically, projects require owner equity and/or private financing. Most programs require specific job creation goals and annual reporting.

Tax Increment Financing
Figure 2: Tax Increment Financing District



Economic Development Implementation

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

Ramsey Role	Metropolitan Council Role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how local efforts to focus economic development strategies along existing commercial centers (historic downtowns or commercial corridors) can contribute to the region’s overall economic competitiveness through enhanced integration of local and regional planning efforts. • Protect sites for highway-, river- and rail-dependent manufacturing and freight transportation needs from incompatible uses and identify local land supply and transportation needs for effective use of those sites. • Identify important multimodal intersections, alternative freight routes, key intersections, and other existing opportunities that may contribute to local and regional economic competitiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in regional amenities and services, including transit, regional parks and trails, and bikeways to support the Emerging Suburban Edge area as an attractive place to locate and do business. • Promote local planning around key intersections, regional infrastructure, and business needs. • Support the development of workforce housing to provide nearby housing options for employees of local employers. • Convene interested partners to further strategies towards increasing regional competitiveness and include discussion of how Emerging Suburban Edge communities can contribute to the region’s overall economic growth.

Economic Development Tactics

- Maintain and Expand our Employment Base
 - Continue our Business Retention and Expansion Efforts.
 - Build Out the Bunker Lake Industrial Base.
 - Plan for the Highway 10 Business Park (next Business Park after Bunker Lake Industrial Park).
 - Make sites shovel ready.
 - Provide incentives to achieve our economic development goals.
 - Be flexible with zoning.
- Increase Retail Options for Residents and Businesses
 - Continue and Expand Current Marketing and Recruitment Efforts for New Retailers.
 - Improve Access and Visibility for Retailers from Key Corridors.
 - Consider free land and incentives.
 - Directly recruit businesses.
 - Execute a marketing campaign to draw businesses.
 - Coordinate with existing efforts (Anoka County, DEED, Chambers of Commerce, etc.)
- Improve Highway 10
 - Establish a Stakeholder Group for Highway 10.
 - Improve Traffic Conditions (Complete Highway 10 Traffic Plan).
 - Create a sustainable funding plan for right-of-way acquisition and construction.

- Remove Blight and Public Nuisances (Complete Highway 10 Land Use Plan).
- Complete Built-Out of The COR according to the approved Development Plan.
 - Complete the Development Plan Update.
 - Continue Current Recruitment Efforts.
- Improve the Image of Ramsey and its Neighborhoods, Business Districts, and Key Corridors
 - Improve signage.
 - Grade separate rail crossings to eliminate physical barriers.
 - Remove Blight and Public Nuisances at the Rum River Hills Node.
 - Remove Blight and Public Nuisances at the Highway 47 Corridor.
 - Improve Relationships Communitywide to Remove Blight and Public Nuisances.
- Create a Robust Offering of Recreational Opportunities that benefit Businesses.

Ongoing Policies

- Organization should be business-friendly (City Council, Advisory Boards, Staff)

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