

Strategic Plan Update

2019 Update – [March 11 Version](#)

ABOUT RAMSEY

Ramsey is a suburban city located in the northwestern part of Anoka County, with a population of [approximately](#) 26,500. Two rivers dominate its borders, the Rum River and the Mississippi River.

The first settlement in Ramsey began because of trading along the banks of the Mississippi. Many settlers came here on a steamboat called "The Governor Ramsey" named after our first territorial governor, from which the city reportedly acquired the name.

Only a few of the first houses and structures built in Ramsey remain today. The most notable structure of historic significance is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Old Ramsey Town Hall, located west of Highway 47 just north of County Road 116. This structure dates to the late 19th century and was originally used as a schoolhouse. The building is a community landmark and the city has preserved and maintained the structure, which currently sits vacant waiting for a user.

Two school districts now serve Ramsey, Elk River #728, and Anoka-Hennepin #11. Students from both districts regularly exceed the state average on the Minnesota Basic Standards in math, reading, and writing, and score well above the national average on college entrance exams.

Many people have chosen to live in Ramsey because of its rural character, wetlands, wildlife, parks, recreation and the housing choices. Our city is a mixture of farms, single-family homes on large parcels of land and single-family homes on urban sized lots ranging from starter homes to executive style homes. New to our city is senior housing apartments and single-level town homes. Our city's development slowed from 1997 to 2000 but, since the year 2001 the city has experienced growth in both townhouse, single-family and multi-family housing development within the urban services area. Our city boasts a growing business district. Within the city are 4 business parks: Energy Park, Business Park 1995, Gateway Park, and the Bunker Lake Industrial Park. Since 1995, we have added several thousand new jobs. We are proud of our commitment to attract economically and environmentally sound commercial development.

The City staff and City Council seek to manage future growth to provide a high quality of life, enhanced employment opportunities, and a stable tax base. We are proud to have Connexus Energy, [Life Fitness](#), and a variety of manufacturing businesses as our lead employers. Looking ahead, our city is working toward retail and commercial growth that includes restaurants, shopping, entertainment and additional employment opportunities.

CORE VALUES

- Ethics and Integrity
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Cooperation and Teamwork
- Open and Honest Communications
- Excellence and Quality in the Delivery of Service
- Treating People with Respect and Fairness
- Adaptability and Continuous Learning

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

~~Ramsey will be a secure, citizen-driven, collaborative community that respects the balance and connectivity between its unique urban, rural, and natural environment.~~

~~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.~~

OUR MISSION

To work together to responsibly grow our community, and to provide quality, cost-effective, and efficient government services.

OBJECTIVES

These objectives represent the key priorities that all strategies attempt to achieve. Policy development should focus on advancing achievement of these objectives.

Financial Stability

~~Ensure strategic economic development that complements the City's desired quality of life and builds a stable tax base, all while maintaining a low tax levy.~~

A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth

~~Ensure that a portion of the City's future growth continues to maintain Ramsey's historic rural character while attracting the services desired by our community.*~~

~~**Adapted from the Comprehensive Plan.*~~

An Active and Connected Community

~~Ensure that the City is a connected City that is part of a comprehensive regional transportation system that enable all to easily navigate the community and attracts business development.~~

An Active Community

~~Ensure that the City has access to a variety of recreational opportunities.*~~

~~**Adapted from the Comprehensive Plan.*~~

Smart, Citizen-Focused Government

~~Continue the delivery of quality services to ensure the City will have safe and thriving neighborhoods and business districts, and a cleaner environment.~~

An Effective Organization

~~Maintain highly functional Staff, Citizen Volunteers, and Elected Officials and governance structure that meets the increasingly ever-changing needs of the organization.~~

Please note: this document is a work in progress. Staff is still working on final formatting. Please focus on content over formatting at this stage.

STRATEGIES

Strategies are actions we take in order to accomplish our ~~four~~ five key objectives.

Objective: Financial Stability

Strategies designed to advance Financial Stability.

- ~~Improve budget preparation to identify~~ Identify and implement operational efficiencies, ~~and~~ cost savings, and additional funding sources.
- ~~Increase~~ Promote economic growth and development.
- ~~Leverage additional funding sources.~~

Objective: A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth

- Create a strong positive image for residential neighborhoods, business districts, and key corridors.
- Enhance Community Engagement in policy decision-making processes.
- ~~—~~

Objective: An Active and Connected Community

Strategies designed to advance A Connected Community.

- Improve the safety and mobility of ~~major regional~~ transportation corridors, with an emphasis on Highway 10.
- ~~Improve the safety and mobility of Highway 10.~~

~~Objective: An Active~~ Community

- Connect the community both physically and socially to destinations, services, and activities. Build community and connect people through recreational opportunities.

Objective: Smart, Citizen-Focused Government

Strategies designed to advance Smart, Citizen-Focused Government.

- ~~Improve and maintain the safety of the community.~~
- Enhance the level of customer service through process improvements.
- Enhance sustainability and efficiency through public facilities and infrastructure investments.
- Define and promote Ramsey Brand. Improve City's communication and identity.
- ~~—~~
- ~~Plan for public facilities and infrastructure to meet the City's growth and service needs.~~

Objective: An Effective Organization

Strategies designed to advance An Effective Organization.

- ~~Improve City communication with the community.~~
- Improve and sustain high organizational employee morale.
- Promote diversity and inclusion to embrace the community's demographics.

- Ensure that the organization reflects the changing demographics of the community and addresses diversity and inclusion.