

Economic Development Authority Work Plan

2019 Update – October 1 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 (Saint Francis Boulevard) just north of County Road 116 (Bunker Lake Boulevard). This 19th century structure was originally used as a schoolhouse. The building is a community landmark and the City is working on a long term plan for the structure.

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. Ramsey is a mixture of farms, large-lot single family, urban single-family, and multi-family with a range of prices that appeals to a wide variety of families and individuals. The City is expected to grow by approximately 10,000 people over the next 20 years. Economic Development continues to be a priority for our City. With nearly 7,000 employees working in Ramsey everyday, new industrial and retail growth may add an additional 5,000 employees over the next 20 years. We are proud of our commitment to attract economically and environmentally sound commercial development.

Ramsey is committed to manage future growth to provide a high quality of life, enhanced employment opportunities and a stable tax base. Looking ahead, our city is working toward retail and commercial growth that includes restaurants, shopping, entertainment and additional employment opportunities.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

The EDA Work Plan is an important component of achieving the City Council Strategic Plan. The initial sections of this Work Plan are an incorporation of the City Council's Strategic Plan.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The primary purpose of the EDA is to coordinate and administer economic development and redevelopment plans and programs of the city. The EDA is vital to the orderly development and financing of the city and in the best interests of the health, safety, prosperity and general welfare of the citizens of the city.

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

VISION

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

MISSION

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

OBJECTIVES

Financial Stability

A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth

An Active and Connected Community

Smart, Citizen-Focused Government

An Effective Organization

ACTION PLAN

Action	Timeframe	Resources	Key Outcomes and Indicators	Responsible Party
Strategy: Promote economic growth and development.				
1. Expand Business Retention and Expansion efforts.	2020	Existing Staff: Budget Impact = Low	Stable base of local employers, representing the largest opportunity for future growth of jobs and tax base. Increase the number of business visits (32). Maintain the quality and attendance at EDA events. Participate in third party real estate events.	Sean Sullivan
2. Expand recruitment process to secure new commercial (retail and restaurants) users.	2020	Existing Staff: Real estate brokers Anoka County Regional Economic Development Partnership (ACRED) Budget Impact = Low RCP Report	Continued growth of jobs, tax base, and services. 5,000 square feet of new retail space. Updated marketing, financial assistance and real estate policies.	Sean Sullivan
3. Expand recruitment process to secure new industrial users.	2020	Existing Staff Budget Impact = low	Continued growth of jobs, tax base, and services. 50,000 square feet of new industrial space.	Sean Sullivan
4. Complete Infrastructure Funding Study for The COR Area	2020	Budget Impact = Medium	Planning Level Pro-Forma including Expenses and Funding Sources available to complete buildout of The COR.	Sean Sullivan
5. Sell remaining developable land owned by City	Ongoing	Budget Impact = Medium	Update listing strategy Return developable parcel to tax base.	Sean Sullivan
Strategy: Strengthen and enhance our identity and brand.				
6. Complete a feasibility study for a future Postal Facility to obtain a Ramsey ZIP Code.	2020	Existing Staff Budget Impact = Medium RCP Report (community identity)	ZIP Code will identify itself as Ramsey. Take a step forward in achieving a Ramsey ZIP Code. Seek third-party funding to assist.	Kurt Ulrich
Strategy: Improve the safety and mobility of transportation corridors.				
7. Establish a Highway 10 ROW Acquisition Plan	2020	Existing Staff Consultant Budget Impact = Medium	ROW Acquisition Plan Potential for Redevelopment Plan of remnant parcels	Tim Gladhill

Budget Impact Key; Low = Existing Staff/thousands of dollars; Medium = Additional Staff/Consultants/tens of thousands of dollars; High = capital improvement/hundreds of thousands of dollars.

RCP Report = Partnership with the University of Minnesota completed in 2018. This partnership created a library of resources and policy alternatives. A full list of completed reports can be found online at rcp.umn.edu/ramsey-projects.